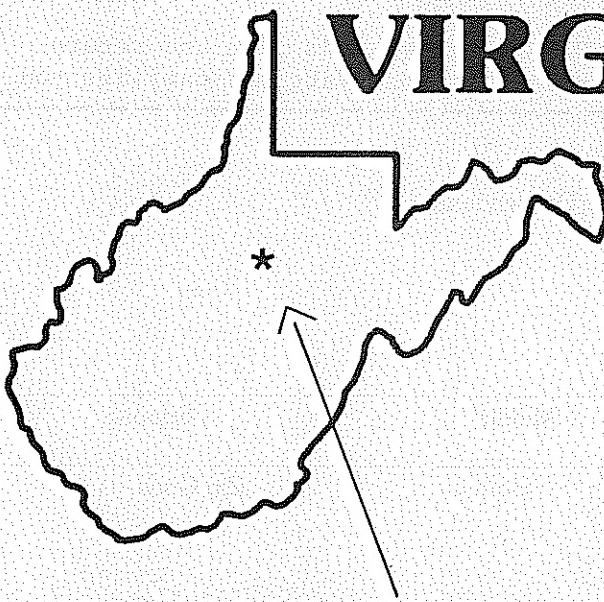


*Edward Lee Allman*

# WEST VIRGINIA

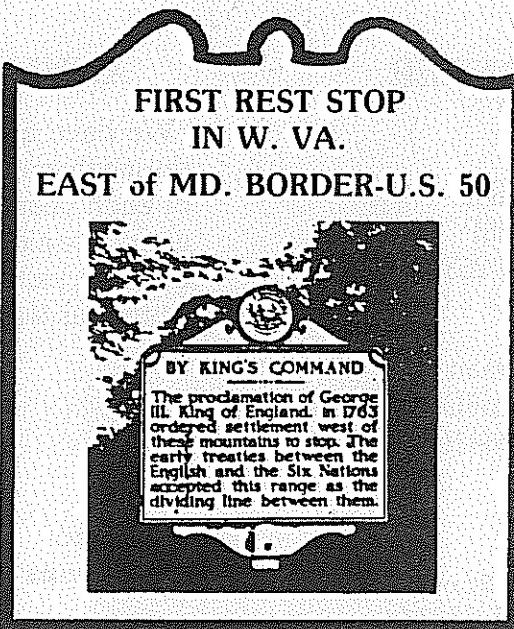


Hacker's Creek,  
Lewis, Harrison & Adjoining Counties

**HACKER'S CREEK JOURNAL**

Fall 1987

Volume VI Issue 1



**HACKER'S CREEK PIONEER DESCENDANTS**  
Organized 1982

*INDEX follows Issue 4 at rear →*

**MEMBERSHIP:**

**"Membership shall be open to anyone who has an interest in the history and/or genealogy of the Hacker's Creek area . . .** Hacker's Creek is defined as that area included in the watershed drained by said stream." (Includes Lewis County and adjoining areas of West Virginia.) We now have over 300 members.

Membership dues begin Oct. 1 and are effective through Sept. of the following year.

\$15.00 for a single membership

and

\$20.00 for a joint membership

(entitled to one copy of each quarterly —  
**HACKER'S CREEK JOURNAL**)

If interested in becoming a member of H. C. P. D., photocopy this page and return completed form shown here. Use reverse side for listing West Virginia families you seek.

I/We hereby apply for membership in The Hacker's Creek Pioneer Descendants.

Make checks payable to: Hacker's Creek Pioneers Descendants

Mail to: Raydine Teicheira

Box 37

Jane Lew, WV 26378

Miss

Mrs.

Mr.

Surname

Given

Middle

Spouse

Address

Street

City

State

Zip Code

Telephone

(area code) number

I am descended or interested in what families.

(  ) Single Membership, \$15.00 per fiscal year.

(  ) Joint Membership, \$20.00 per fiscal year. (One copy of publications)

(  ) New Member (  ) Renewal

## **HACKER'S CREEK PIONEER DESCENDANTS**

**President** Barbara McCarty  
Route 1, Box 33P  
Jane Lew, WV 26378  
304-884-7032

**Vice Pres.** Maurice L. Allman  
Route 2, Box 264D  
Philippi, WV 26416  
304-457-4170

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440 So. 16th Street  
Coshocton, OH 43812  
614-622-2614

**Sec-Treas** Raydine Teicheira  
Box 37  
Jane Lew, WV 26378  
304-884-7933

## **ANNUAL GATHERING**

We have an annual meeting of members during the months of September or October of each year. Come and join us and learn about the pioneers. Bring your genealogical material, pictures, and mementos and spend a glorious weekend with your cousins.

**Exec Comm** Robert B. Smith  
Rt. 1 -Box 52C  
Lost Creek, WV 26385  
304-745-4260

**Exec Comm** Edward Allman  
321 Milford St.  
Clarksburg, WV 26301  
304-622-9765

*John & Jean G. Grubbs*

# WEST

# VIRGINIA

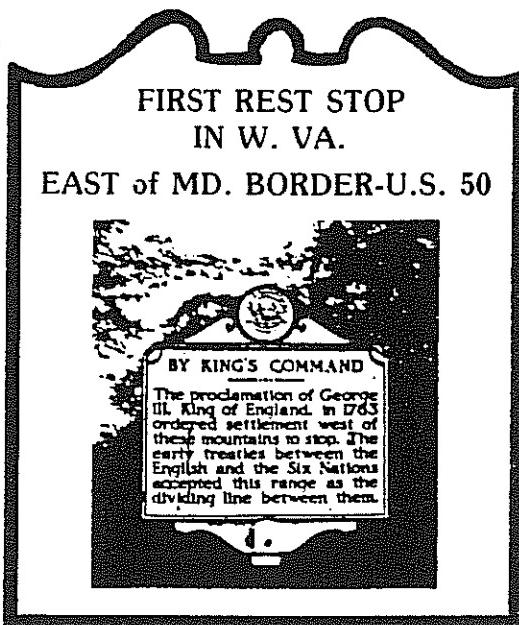


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BACK ISSUES  
of  
HACKER'S CREEK JOURNALS

All back issues are available in complete volume only. (one full year)

Through December 31, 1987, any one Volume - I, II, III, IV, or V is \$12.50.

Beginning January 1, 1988, each volume will sell for \$15.00.

Years are as follows: Volume I, Oct. 1982-1983; Volume III, Oct. 1984-1985;  
Volume II, Oct. 1983-1984; Volume IV, Oct. 1985-1986;  
Volume V, Oct. 1986-1987.

Volume I and Volume II of five-generation charts -

EARLY LEWIS & HARRISON CO. W.VA. FAMILIES, THEIR DESCENDANTS & ALLIED FAMILIES are available at \$15.00 per volume. (SEE p. 2 for limited offer of Volume II.)

# WANTED

# OLD PHOTOGRAPHS

for HCPD Project of the Future

A series of quality books  
to be printed and published:

## HACKER'S CREEK PIONEER DESCENDANTS

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- Vol. I - 1840's
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- Vol. IV - 1870's
- Vol. V - 1880's
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- Vol. VII - 1900's
- Vol. VIII - 1910's
- Vol. IX - 1920's
- Vol. X - 1930's

Send COPIES, not ORIGINALS

- Identify
- (1) Names of persons in photos
  - (2) Places, buildings, etc.
  - (3) Approximate date of photos
  - (4) Stories for captions, if desired
  - (5) Names of persons donating photos

[Old drawings  
are acceptable]

[If there are profits;  
HCPD will receive them]

[Send as many  
as you can!]

Mail to: HCPD Photographic History  
c/o Raydine Teicheira  
Box #37  
Jane Lew, WV 26378

October 1987

Dear Members,

What a tremendously exciting time it has been since our last issue! So much has happened! The gathering was exhilarating! It was great fun getting together with long-known relatives and friends and meeting new ones. There's an old camp song that I remember from girlhood days at Jackson's Mill.

The lyrics say, "Make new friends, but keep the old; one is silver and the other gold." If the words of the song are true, then I was certainly a wealthy person when Chuck and I closed up shop and returned to Ohio. I enjoyed meeting and sharing with each and every one of you - and my sentiments are shared by all the officers.

Thanks to all of you who traveled distances great and small. Some of you came thousands of miles while others had a short jaunt, but the support and encouragement offered by all of you was appreciated by everyone. Without you, our members, HCPD would still be a dream and "a cup of coffee."

We've come a long way since that cup of coffee in Betty's dining room - and we still have far to grow. I hope you'll share in the excitement felt by all the members at the gathering as you read about the meeting and the many plans that were made.

This issue continues the articles on the Mitchell and Radcliff families written by Bill and Dennis respectively. Both gentlemen have willingly shared of their time and research to help with interesting articles for the Journal. And, you'll soon discover that their help hasn't stopped with the Journal. Both made valuable contributions to the Gathering. Thanks, fellows, for being there.

Besides the changes and growth being experienced by HCPD, Lewis County and West Virginia are having some of their own. Much controversy has surrounded the construction of the Stonewall Jackson Dam; but, the project is now near completion and plans for development of the lake area are going forth.

Again, the plans are not without controversy. There is a faction which supports development of the area by the state while another supports development by the state in conjunction with the designation of the area as a national recreation area under the National Park Service.

Senators Robert Byrd and Jay Rockefeller and Congressman Bob Wise, all of West Virginia, have presented bills in the U.S. Senate and House to place the area under the auspices of the federal government. A report on progress in that direction is included for your study and consideration.

Our application for tax-exempt status is proceeding. It has been returned once for some additional information. We hope to hear from IRS in the very near future.

A new newspaper has come to the Jane Lew area. The "Jane Lew Journal" is published bi-weekly by Joey and Jeannine Herron and is a "buy" at \$5.00 per year for West Virginians and \$7.00 for out-of-staters. It was the only paper to cover the HCPD Gathering - although all the area papers were invited. Thanks, Jeannine and Joey, for your support and excellent coverage - three full pages and a membership application so the subscribers could join. (Yes, Jeannine paid her dues as did several members of her family.)

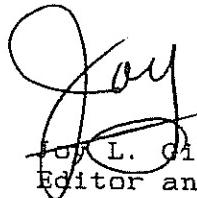
Besides coverage of current events, several columns appear in the paper every issue - and some of our members are the authors of these. Linda Chapman Turner is writing on arts and crafts; Bob Smith is doing a series on the area churches; yours truly talks about "The Joy of

Genealogy". Another interesting column by Helen Davisson Holden explores memorable events in Jane Lew.

Why not send your subscription now to the "Jane Lew Journal", PO Box 133, Jane Lew, WV 26378.

I was saddened to learn of the death of one of our charter members, Gladys O. Wolfe, in June. She was always supportive and interested in our activities. The officers and members extend our sympathy to her large family.

As I complete this issue to start it's long journey to you (first to Lolita in Bowling Green for a few additions, then to Clarksburg for printing, and finally to Raydine, who with the help of Haroldine Stalnaker and Irma Curtis, will mail it to you), my thoughts are turning to the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons which are fast approaching. (Oh where has the past year gone?) We have so much to be thankful for - so much to ask for in our Christmas stockings - and so much to look forward to in 1988. Here's to a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year to all of you. See you in 1988.



Jon L. Gilchrist  
Editor and Archivist

#### REPRINT AND PRICE INCREASE

Volume I of EARLY LEWIS & HARRISON CO. W.VA. FAMILIES, THEIR DESCENDANTS & ALLIED FAMILIES is in it's first reprint. Due to changes in printing methods for the organization, there is a price increase to \$15.00, postpaid.

A limited number of Volume II are still available at \$13.65, postpaid. With an anticipated reprint in late December or early January, the price will increase to \$15.00.

Price for back issues will remain at \$12.50 per volume until January 1. The price will then increase to \$15.00 per volume.

#### THE HISTORY OF UPSHUR COUNTY

A few copies of THE HISTORY OF UPSHUR COUNTY by W.B. Cutright, 1907 (reprinted and indexed, 1977) are still available and may be ordered from the Upshur County Historical Society, P.O. Box 2082, Buckhannon, WV 26201. \$27.00 pp.

#### Do You Know???????????

Who was the "teacher's pet" in the HCPD Grade School in 1880? What little girl was always getting her pigtail stuck in the inkwell by what naughty little boy?. Make your plans now to attend the Seventh Annual Gathering of the Hacker's Creek Pioneer Descendants August 19-21, 1988, and learn the answer to these and other provocative questions. Look for further details in the Winter issue.

## WERE YOU THERE?

"What an emotional experience!"

"I thought about going to the cattle show but decided to come here instead. I'm glad I came."

"I've never been to anything like this and didn't know what to expect. I sure had fun."

"I loved the fellowship."

"The greatest feature was the library, working together, and the willingness of the members to share."

"I can hardly wait till next year."

These were among the many favorable comments heard as the Sixth Annual Hacker's Creek Pioneer Descendants Gathering came to a close. It was a truly exciting experience for everyone - from the newest members to those "old hands" who have been around since we first organized.

140 people from 18 states (Arizona, New Mexico, California, New Jersey, New York, Delaware, Iowa, Indiana, Illinois, North Carolina, Ohio, Maryland, Maine, Oklahoma, Michigan, Virginia, Delaware, West Virginia) came to Jackson's Mill by plane, bus and auto, September 11-13, 1987, to exchange historical and genealogical information, fellowship together and make some monumental decisions.

Although not scheduled to officially begin until Friday a.m., 19 "out-of-towners" met for supper on Thursday evening at the 179 Truck Stop at Jane Lew. (The graham cracker pie was great but renewing old friendships and making new ones was even better.) After dinner, Joy asked everyone to meet at the Sewing Center at the Mill to help collate the second volume of our "Allied Families. . .", set up the HCPD library (by now so big it requires their motor home to get it to W.Va.) and get acquainted.

Among these folks were the Dennis Rodgers family, the Ed Schoolcrafts, Howard and Lucy Bonnett, Paul and Francis Simmons, Carol Powell and her sister, Steve and Ruth Strother, Joyce Chambers, Barb and Keith McCarty, and your editor. Bob Smith and "Dead Ringer" Hayes would have been there too, but they were out roaming through the mountains of eastern West Virginia visiting the home sites of the early Mitchells, Teters and Hinkles.

Friday was a busy day. Coffee, tea and pop were available through the work of Barb McCarty. Cookies were brought by the Hacker sisters of Illinois and Alice Swisher of Jane Lew. (They were all yummy!) By noon, 106 folks had registered. Some were busily researching in the HCPD library and the private collections of some of the members. Others were off to various courthouses and cemeteries. One, accompanied by our "jack-of-all-trades" secretary-treasurer, was off to the hospital being treated for bronchial pneumonia.

Following a picnic style lunch in the shelter, fifteen carloads of folks left to tour in three locations. Bob Smith took a group to visit the Scheiffer family cemeteries down near Gilmer County. Chuck Gilchrist's group went up Hacker's Creek, Life's Run, the Hardman log house and Jesse's Run. The third group, Joy's, went to McCann's Run, Broad Run Church, Minter Bailey farm, Life's Run, and up Hacker's Creek. Some folks remained at the Mill to continue their research.

After supper at the Mill, about twenty five people journeyed to the old Pioneer Cemetery for a moving memorial service commemorating the 200th anniversary of our Constitution, the 200th anniversary of the massacre of Edmond West Sr., Mary Ann Hacker West, and the small West

boy, and to remember our servicemen who have served our nation in any way.

Before the ceremony began, we were given a demonstration in reading old tombstones using shaving cream and an old squeegee by Lolita Guthrie of Bowling Green, OH.

An American flag was presented to the organization by Clarksburg VFW Post 573. Benjamin Mitchell, HCPD member, veteran and former P.O.W., presented the flag for the pledge. Bill Hayes led the group in singing "America."

Joy thanked Don Prince whose property abuts the cemetery for the excellent job he does of maintaining the cemetery. She mentioned that the cemetery, which is the site of the earliest known burials on the area, is owned by the state and recognized as a state historical site.

Howard Bonnett read the 23rd Psalm. And the service closed with "Taps".

Back to the Mill and more research and fellowship completed the day.

Approximately 50 people attended the Saturday morning business meeting. Vice-president Maurice Allman opened the meeting by ringing the schoolbell which was presented to HCPD by Benjamin Mitchell of Clarksburg. (He had noted the need for a signal for a call-to-order in previous years and thought that the bell was more in keeping with our historical purpose. Everyone agreed.)

Official minutes of the business meeting appear immediately after this article.

After lunch, it was back to the Sewing Center and more research and fellowship.

82 shared chicken dinner in the Mt. Vernon Dining Hall Saturday evening. About 6:30 pm the group began to assemble for the evening program. While they were waiting, Bill Hayes (on piano) and Larry Smith (mandoline) entertained with group singing.

Quite a stir was created with the appearance of the Hacker sisters - Eleanor, Ruth and Martha - dressed as pioneer women and Bud Allman as "John Hacker". Others who dressed for the evening were Steve and Ruth Strother, Carol Powell, Patty Swisher, Joyce Chambers, Jeanne Allman, and Joy Gilchrist. Much picture taking ensued.

By the time 7:30 rolled around, about 100 persons had gathered and the room was "bursting at the seams". In fact, we learned Sunday morning that three people who had driven all day from Van Wirt, OH, had been turned away at the door by someone who said there was no more room to sit. (A public apology to the Straley cousins from Van Wirt - we could have squeezed you in somewhere - please come back again next year.)

Maurice Allman led a prayer. After the pledge to the flag and the singing of "America", Joy welcomed everyone and introduced the officers. She called a roll of the states and asked people to stand as their state was called. She mentioned that we had all returned to our homeland and asked the gathering to sing "West Virginia Hills", the West Virginia state song. Nina Talkington led and Joyce Chambers played the piano.

Joy explained the plans for the Hacker's Creek Pioneer Village (see business meeting minutes) and asked everyone to remember the project in their prayers and by their support (physically and financially). Chuck Gilchrist presented a "commercial" for raffle tickets for a Dec writer that would be given away that evening with the proceeds going to the Building Fund.

Beulahland Express entertained with four very expressive gospel songs. Members of Beulahland Express all have Hacker's Creek roots and they're already planning their pioneer costumes for next year.

Flodia Hitt was introduced as the oldest member present. She will

celebrate her 91st birthday on September 26. We sang "Happy Birthday" and presented her with a gift. Flodia is a charter member of HCPD; she attended the very first gathering at Broad Run Church in 1981.

"Weave", another gospel group with Hacker's Creek connections, presented four numbers. It was the group's first appearance in public as a group and they were superb. We're looking forward to hearing them again next year.

The door prize, a game called "Generations" (see information on elsewhere in this issue), was won by Flodia Hitt. The game was donated by it's designer and one of our members, Le Earl Bryant.

Joy explained that the scheduled speaker, Dr. Marvin Carr, was unable to attend due to the death of his mother the previous day. She introduced member, father, attorney, author, friend and the evening's speaker, Dennis Rodgers, of Mt. Zion, Illinois. Denny, perhaps from premonition, had prepared a manuscript to explain the Schoolcraft family and their Hacker's Creek connections to his wife, children, and Eva Schoolcraft (Ed's wife), but which would also serve as a speech should the need arise. Oddly enough, the story was as appropriate as Dr. Carr's intended topic, "Pioneers and Renegades", as any could be.

Dennis presented his material with authority, compassion and emotion. His story of the tragedies that beset the Schoolcraft family left us with the feeling that whatever our own ancestors had seen and suffered, the Schoolcrafts had more. Dennis' full manuscript is presented immediately after the minutes of the weekend meeting.

Another "commercial" for the Dec writer was given and the drawing was held. It was won by Art Hacker.

Judging of pioneer costumes was held. It was decided by all present that all should have prizes. They were awarded eight generation charts.

Joy introduced the "Hacker's Creek Quintet" composed of Joyce Chambers, Patty Swisher, Bill Hayes, Dennis Rodgers and Ralph Hinzman. They sang a new song, "O, Hacker's Creek", which was composed by Joy and Joyce while enroute to the gathering on Thursday afternoon. The tune is "O, Tannenbaum". After singing the first verse, the quintet was joined by the assembly. Words to the song are published later in this issue.

The evening's program closed with everyone singing "Country Roads" and "Happy Birthday to us". Bill Hayes accompanied on piano.

Cake and coffee were served.

As the meeting disbanded, we were informally entertained by the combined groups of Beulahland Express and Weave singing and playing many old gospel songs. Members of HCPD joined in around the piano.

Sunday morning worship service was held at Fairview United Methodist Church.

Roger McKee, pastor, spoke on "Where is Your Faith?". At the completion of his regularly scheduled events, he turned the service over to HCPD. Bob Smith explained about our organization to the members of the church. Maurice Allman, our VP, led a prayer; Maurice was baptised in this old church and he later said that being able to participate in the service was a special honor for him. Joy gave the history of the church.

With Joyce Chambers playing the beautiful music, we sang "When the Roll is Called Up Yonder" and "Faith of Our Fathers." As the latter was being sung, the congregation formed a circle and joined hands. Joyce joined us and we sang "Kum-By-Ya" accappello. Bill Hayes, a descendant of John Mitchell, the first resident Methodist minister on Hacker's Creek, led the prayer. Joy told Joyce Chamber's story as a means of explaining what Hacker's Creek means to all of us. She wished everyone a safe journey home. We sang "God Be With You" and adjourned.

Everyone gathered for pictures on the church steps and then returned to the Mill for dinner. After dinner, there were tearful goodbyes as those who had long distances to travel began their trips home. Others stayed and researched awhile longer. The Executive Board held a brief meeting and about 3 pm the library was packed and the weekend was over.

Editor's Note: This narrative is dry words compared to the feelings that flowed during this best of weekends since HCPD was organized. Emotions were high the entire weekend - and it's now the 15th of October and I'm still "up" from this marvelous weekend. I look forward to seeing everyone again next year.

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#### WHAT DO I DO WITH IT???

Do you happen to have Aunt Sarah's cream pitcher, or Great-granpaw's chest, or a quilt made by Second Cousin Emily? Are you wondering what to do with it? Do you think it might look great in a museum but don't know who to give it to? Did it come from West Virginia and have some connection to the Hacker's Creek area? Or, perhaps, you happen to have twenty or so acres some place in the Jane Lew area that's just begging to be preserved -- You might want to consider donating any or all of the above to HCPD for incorporation in the Hacker's Creek Pioneer Village. The Executive Committee will be glad to hear from you - as will all of our members.

---

#### CEMETERY FUND

Upkeep of the cemeteries in the Hacker's Creek area has come to a close for this year. However, we need to consider the cost of upkeep in 1988. Any donations toward the support of "our" cemeteries will be appreciated.

---

from "betwixt" (the editor and the printer, aka Lolita Thayer Guthrie)

Now that I've added the headings with page numbers for this issue, I find Joy has left me with at least six spots for fillers. Since my mind, and it appears my HCPD file, seems to be running "dry," I will pull from my hat items that hopefully may plant a seed in your pursuits, suggest a different approach to your pursuit, or bring a chuckle.

regarding CEMETERY PRESERVATION.

Learn what statutes exist in your state for the responsibility of care and preservation of pioneer cemeteries - and then proceed:

1. to work for more effective laws and enforcement; and
2. contribute time, talent, and money toward the restoration of one or more tombstones. Involve the skills of a monument company, funeral directors, as well as archaeologists.

I recently was told -- someone who visited a cemetery, proceeded to dig out buried stones, and left the cemetery with these parting words to the caretaker, "You oughta...."

Tombstones have been carried into kitchens and used for cake-decorating and bread kneading. \* \* \* \* \*

## HACKER'S CREEK PIONEER DESCENDANTS

Business Meeting of General Membership September 12, 1987

Hacker's Creek Pioneer Descendants met in open session on Saturday, September 12, 1987, at Jackson's Mill State 4-H Camp. The meeting was called to order at 10:45 A.M. by Maurice Allman, vice president.

Prayer was led by Robert Smith, and Edward Allman led the membership in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Bill Hayes led singing of God Bless America.

Joy Gilchrist welcomed members. She introduced the officers who will continue with the second year of their two-year terms.

Raydine Teicheira presented an overview of executive sessions held during the year, then compared the estimated budget with actual expenditures. (Note: an estimated budget for 1988 is presented at the end of these minutes.)

Joy Gilchrist discussed the reprinting of volume I of the Early Family charts and the printing of volume II as a continuation of our efforts to bring in revenue as well as to make information available. Dorothy Carter King has volunteered to type indexes of publications.

Joy noted progress on our request for tax-exempt status. The granting of same will enable members to make tax-deductible contributions.

A discussion ensued on the conditions of several pioneer cemeteries in the area. The Waggoner cemetery on John Kolb's farm has no fence. One located on Hilly Upland is on the edge of a coal mine and is deteriorating rapidly. Another on Two Turtle Lick which contains some sixty graves needs to be cleaned, probed and fenced.

Joy spoke of the need for raising money for the organization. Publications and sales of past Journals will continue to bring in revenue. Dues will have to be raised to \$20.00 per family, no single memberships. A Decwriter will be raffled off Saturday night. The possibility of having a mail-order used book auction was also discussed.

Under new business Bill Hayes expanded on the previous discussion with some specific suggestions. As the family tree is a symbol of our organization's goals, so must we branch out to disseminate information as well as raise revenue. He presented a four-pronged proposition:

1. Publication of a History of Weston and the rest of Lewis County.

2. An addition to the name of the organization to further identification and have wider appeal.

3. Publication of a series of books which will give a photographic history of specific historical eras.

4. Creation of a Pioneer Village. Log buildings in the area would be used to erect buildings to house a library, museum, meeting rooms, and craft shops to attract the general public as well as members.

Dennis Rodgers moved that the title of our organization be amended to read - "Hacker's Creek Pioneer Descendants - A Historical Society of Lewis County, West Virginia." Ruth Strother seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Such an amendment is legal as the original title was not changed.

Joy appointed a committee to collect photos and prepare to publish a book using photographs and material prior to the year 1880. Members are; Bill Hayes, Chairman, Maurice Allman, Irma Curtis, Haroldine Stalnaker. Anyone having photos to contribute may send copies to Raydine Teicheira, P.O.Box 37, Jane Lew, WV, 26378. Please do not send originals.

A Building and Land Committee was established to search for suitable land in the Jane Lew area. Members are: Chairman, Robert Smith, Bill Smith, Raydine Teicheira, Henry Dawson and Charles Gilchrist.

Members approved a plan to establish a Building and Land Fund which will be held in a savings account separate from the regular checking account.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Respectfully submitted, Raydine Teicheira, Sec'y-Treas.

ESTIMATED BUDGET - 1988	
INCOME:	Membership \$4,000.00
	Sale of back Journals 600.00
	Sale of Early Family books 800.00
	Bank interest 200.00
	Seminar 200.00
	Cemetery donations 750.00
	Building and Land Fund ?
	<u>\$6,550.00</u>
EXPENSES:	Printing \$4,000.00
	Postage 400.00
	Office supplies 500.00
	Seminar 100.00
	Cemetery maintenance 800.00
	Contingency fund (reserve) <u>500.00</u>
	<u>\$6,300.00</u>

\* \* \* \* \*

correspondence from: Walter Farwell, 549 East 4th, Tipton, Iowa 52772 7 Sept 1987

I'm descended from Francis and Elizabeth (FLESHER) LIGGET who lived at Jane Lew 1788-1807 on McKinney's Run. I have an old parchment deed to them from the governor of Virginia dated 1788. Both died in Warren County, Ohio. Their son George Ligget died 1860 in Shelby County, Indiana. His daughter, Nancy married Dr. KERN and died in Warren County, Iowa. They were the parents of John North KERN who ran as vice-presidential candidate with William Jennings BRYAN in 1908.

Francis LIGGET had a brother John who married a BENNETT whose descendants went to Vermillion County, Illinois. Another brother George was killed by the Indians in 1791. I don't think he was married.

The LIGGETS originated in York County, Pennsylvania. Their father John was a native of northern Ireland and died in Windsor Twp., York County, PA about 1763.

Elizabeth (FLESHER) LIGGET's father Henry lived at present Weston and died 1803. Henry FLESHER lived in the fort from 1776-1797 and part of the time this fort was on Hacker's Creek. Other times at Ft. Buchanon. Two of Henry FLESHER's youngest sons married daughters of Edward JACKSON and also moved to Warren County, Ohio.

(This is a most helpful and welcome answer to our perennial question -

Where Did They Go?

\* \* \* \* \*

HACKER'S CREEK PIONEER DESCENDANTS  
EXECUTIVE SESSIONS - 1986-87

The Executive Board of Hacker's Creek Pioneer Descendants met bi-monthly during the year.

Many hours were devoted to discussion of ways to make the annual "Gathering" more helpful to the new member or first-time visitor. It was decided to assign members to help find materials, to offer a reference file listing families being researched, and to have people available to make introductions and answer questions.

The five-generation families book was advertised in The Helper, and ensuing requests made it necessary to order another printing. Volume II has recently been printed and will be available in late September.

Bob Smith has been meeting with other interested groups in Lewis County in an effort to have the area declared a national park. Such a project would bring more publicity to the historical aspects of our region as well as bolster the sagging economy.

A file was set up which, while not complete, lists many of the names being researched and gives names and addresses of members interested in them.

Much thought was given to finding a place in Hacker's Creek area where the library could be housed. Nothing has been found thus far, and it continues to be a monumental task for Joy Gilchrist to transport it twice yearly for our meetings. People who come to the area for research are very disappointed to learn that our materials are not available to them.

One of the Board's most successful projects was carried out by Maurice Allman with the help of Bud Allman and Bob Smith. Maurice refurbished a road sign which was formerly at Hodgesville and replaced it beside the highway. He also built two new signs which read "Welcome to Historic Hacker's Creek Area", and you can admire one of them on the lawn of Harmony Church. Thank you for all your labor, gentlemen!

The Board wants to express heartfelt thanks to Lolita Guthrie who has spent many hours seeing that the Journal is published. Now it is time for some one else to take on the burden. The printing will now be done in the Hacker's Creek area. We want to remember to add a thank-you to Ellie Maroon, our indexer.

One of the latest decisions was to arrange to have an accountant set up books for the organization. Now that the group has grown to three hundred members a strict accounting system needs to be instituted.

Members of the Board want to remind the association on this occasion of our fifth anniversary that we would not exist if two women, Betty Graybill and Joy Gilchrist, had not possessed the vision and the drive to start the organization. Betty continues to be an active member, and Joy is the one who answers queries, sets up the Journals and continues to be the spark that makes the organization active. Thanks again, Joy. Through your efforts many cousins have been able to exchange information and have fun while doing it!

Respectfully submitted, Raydine Teicheira, Sec'y-Treas.



Modern Day Pioneers: (l-r) Carol Powell, Martha Hacker, Eleanor Hacker, Joyce Chambers, Ruth Strother, Steve Strother, Patty Swisher, Joy Gilchrist. Front row: Ruth Hacker, Ed "Bud" Allman.



A second chorus of "Country Roads" with Beulahland Express, Weave, Bill Hayes and Larry Smith.



## IN MEMORY OF

Gladys O. Wolfe

BORN

October 13, 1895

DIED

June 3, 1987

## SERVICES

Saturday

June 6, 1987 10:30 A.M.  
Graveside Services

OFFICIATING

Rev. Andy Weaver

## INTERMENT

Oak Lawn Memorial Gardens  
Indianapolis, IndianaPoling - St. Clair Funeral Home  
IN CHARGE OF ARRANGEMENTS**Gladys O. Wolfe**

Gladys O. Wolfe passed from this life June 3, 1987, at age 91, in St. Joseph Hospital, Buckannon, West Virginia.

She had returned to the place of her birth at the passing of her husband, the Rev. R.W. Wolfe.

She was active in her church up to the time of her passing. She succumbed to a massive stroke and never regained consciousness.

She was the wife of Rev. R.W. Wolfe, who served his church as pastor, District Superintendent, Secretary of Home Missions, College Professor, and General Evangelist until his death.

She was the mother of five children, Calma W. of Indianapolis; Wingrove W. of Darlington, S.C.; Wilma Hall of Indianapolis; Raymond W., Jr. of Alexander, W. VA.; and Meredith R. of Hillsboro, Ohio.

She was a member of Trinity Wesleyan Church of Indianapolis for 47 years, but during the last six years of her life, she attended the Pine Grove Methodist Church at Alexander, W. VA, the church she attended as a young girl.

All those who knew her will miss the vitality of life which she spread everywhere she went.

**THE INDIANAPOLIS NEWS**Thursday, June 4, 1987**Gladys O. Wolfe**

FRENCH CREEK, W. Va. — Graveside services for Gladys O. VanGilder Wolfe, 91, formerly of Indianapolis, will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday in Oaklawn Cemetery in Hamilton County, Ind. There will be no calling. Mrs. Wolfe, who died Wednesday in St. Joseph Hospital, Buckannon, W. Va., was the widow of the Rev. Raymond W. Wolfe, Smith Funeral Home, Carmel, Ind., is assisting with arrangements. Survivors — sons Calma W., Raymond W., Jr., Wingrove W., Meredith R. Wolfe; daughter Wilma Fay Hall; brother Earl VanGilder; sister Mabel Miles; 12 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild.

NOTE

After the following article was written, and while attending the recent Gathering, I learned that there is considerable support for the proposition that in the pioneer days there were at least two forts in the Buckhannon area: one called "Bush's Fort" on land within what is now Heavner Cemetery, and the other on Fink's Run west of the town. This latter fort apparently was the one called "Buckhannon Fort." Neither Withers nor Core recognized the existence of more than one fort there; and since they were my primary sources of information, the article reflects their views and fails to make any distinction between the two forts. Thus the terms "Bush's Fort" and "Buckhannon Fort" (or fort at Buckhannon) were used interchangeably.

Any reader of the article should remember that the use of distinct terms was not intended as a differentiation between the two forts, and so wherever either term appears, the reader should delete that term and supply in its place the words, "one of the forts at Buckhannon." This lack of precision is unfortunate, but unavoidable until further evidence is uncovered.

SEE UPHUR CO. HISTORY - 1909.

15 September 1987  
Dennis B. Rodgers

(from betwixt)

While we're talking about forts,

A neighbor recently asked me to explain what I thought the difference was between early forts and stations. Since these terms appear more frequently in the history of Virginia and Tennessee (at least what she is researching), I would appreciate your input and interpretation.

Lolita Guthrie  
123 N. Grove St.  
Bowling Green, OH 43402

THE SCHOOLCRAFTS: AN AMERICAN SAGA  
By: Dennis B. Rodgers

During the period of America's expansion and development, Schoolcrafts left their mark. Wherever they lived a few doctors, lawyers, judges, businessmen and educators were found as well as a huge corps of farmers and laborers. While some seemingly found success where they were born, many were among the pioneers who pushed west across the nation, constantly seeking a new life on the edges of civilization.

James Schoolcraft Sherman, nicknamed "Sunny Jim," was a Congressman from Utica, New York, and was elected Vice-President under William Howard Taft in 1908; John L. Schoolcraft was a Congressman from Albany in the mid-1800's; and a Schoolcraft girl married the colorful and flamboyant Ethan Allen after his return from imprisonment in England. In contrast Leonard Schoolcraft was an infamous renegade on the frontier of West Virginia, and the trial and conviction of three Schoolcraft brothers in Illinois reached such notoriety that some of their relation felt compelled to change the family name to "Smith." Schoolcrafts served in each of the early wars with first cousins fighting on opposite sides in both the Revolutionary and Civil Wars. In short, the history of the Schoolcraft family in the United States is a microcosm of American history and its people.

The most prominent Schoolcraft - at least the best known - is Henry Rowe Schoolcraft, who was born in New York State. Henry became acknowledged as an authority on the myths, legends, and customs of the Indians in the upper Great Lakes Region and spent a considerable portion of his life in the vicinity of northern Lake Michigan. His first wife was part Indian and is said to have given him invaluable help in his work. Longfellow acknowledged publicly that it was Schoolcraft's compilation of Indian legends which gave him the inspiration for the "Song of Hiawatha." While on an excursion in 1832 into the then unexplored regions of Minnesota, Henry Rowe is said to have discovered the source of the Mississippi River at Lake Itasca.

Unfortunately for later-date Schoolcrafts, Henry seems to have desired an aristocratic lineage, and much of the genealogical data contained in his Memoirs is misleading, if not deceptive. He seems to have covered up multiple marriages of his immigrant ancestor and other - what he must have considered to be - skeletons in his closet. The most obvious of these cover-ups is his report that one Christian was the family member who migrated first to Berks County, Pennsylvania, and then later to the Lewis County area of what is now West Virginia. There always seems to be a grain of truth in Henry's account: A Schoolcraft did in fact migrate from New York, but it was Astien who eventually settled in West Virginia, not Christian, who, on the other hand, stayed in New York and remained loyal to the British Crown during the Revolutionary War.

The name "Schoolcraft" is a common one in Lancashire County, England, and this is the Old World home of most Americans who bear

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the name. One of the earliest records of any Schoolcraft being on this continent comes from Albany, New York, where a British soldier was stationed in 1712. James Schoolcraft was a private, and although he may have been one of the Regular troops which came from England in 1711, more likely he was one of the militia which had been called up in that same year. The British governors in America had convinced the government in London to mount a campaign against the French in Quebec and Montreal in 1711, but again, as in a similar venture in 1709, the campaign flopped due to half-hearted support from England and inexperienced leadership. The French in Canada once again breathed a sigh of relief.

England had been involved in a protracted war with France and Spain on the European continent - the "War of Spanish Succession" - and although the British and French were also engaged in a struggle for control of the New World - called "Queen Anne's War" here - London's basic policy was to let America handle her own problems. Thus any support from England came with considerably less than total commitment. In the Canadian expedition of 1711, the forces raised in America marched toward Montreal and waited at the head of Lake Champlain for the British Navy and Regular troops on board to sail up the St. Lawrence River. The ships floundered, some crashed on rocks, and the rest turned back. Left in the lurch once more at Lake Champlain, Colonel Nicholson - leader of the troops from Albany - was so angry when he heard the news that he tore off his wig and stomped on it in frustrated rage.

Our Schoolcraft soldier couldn't avoid a feeling of disenchantment with his superiors over their bungling incompetence, but when added to England's withdrawal from the war on the continent in late 1711, and her general desire for peace, the morale and dedication of the men in the garrison at Albany must have reached a low ebb. Under these circumstances it is no surprise that James and a few others went A.W.O.L. They were caught and taken back to Albany; but our story can go on, because James was one of the ones pardoned by the Governor of New York, Robert Hunter. Another of the deserters - a repeat offender - was not so fortunate. Hunter ordered that he be shot at the head of the company.

Hunter's communiqué included a reference to some Palatines, so-called because they were Germans from the Rhine River region. That area was one of the German states which had been ruled by a prince or Palatine, whose domain, as a result, was called a "Palatinat." In popular usage the populace of such a state became known as Palatines. The British government under Queen Anne knew that the residents along the Rhine were sick and tired of the wars which for decades had been raging back and forth across their land; and so, in order to help populate the New World, the British circulated flyers or handbills glorifying life in North America. Beginning in 1709, hundreds, then thousands of these Palatines accepted the British offers of cheap land; and after traveling down the Rhine to Rotterdam and transferring to England, they embarked for the promised land.

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The response to the British call for immigrants was overwhelming. Most of the first group, which arrived in 1710, were settled in camps and sent to work in the tar pits along the Hudson River north of New York City. When the campaign against Canada was being planned in 1711, many German men volunteered and went with the forces from Albany north to Lake Champlain. The next year about 150 German families moved up the Hudson Valley and settled just west of Albany at Schoharie.

We know that James was still in the military as late as December of 1713, but sometime after that he became closely associated with the Palatines in the Schoharie area. He may have made an acquaintance with some of them while encamped on Lake Champlain, or he may have established contact while employed as a surveyor on some land near Schoharie. Regardless of how he came to know them, he married at least one, and possibly two of their girls.

For decades, from this point on, many of James' descendants became so assimilated into the Palatine communities, and the German heritage became so strong, that many modern day Schoolcrafts are convinced that their roots just have to be in Germany. The family name itself became so altered that sometimes it almost escapes recognition.

To compound this research problem, the name "James" seems to have then been used interchangeably with the Latin form "Jacobus," and also "Jacob." Undoubtedly this custom was a holdover from the Jacobean era in England in the reigns of King James I and II.

We don't know much about James during the rest of his life, but we do know he had more than a few children. By the time the Revolutionary War broke out, it was not only his children but some of his grandchildren who were caught in the conflict. Enough documentation survives to make it clear that while quite a few of James' descendants sided with the American "rebels," one of his sons, Christian, remained loyal to the Crown, as mentioned earlier. Three of Christian's sons served with Loyalist troops under Burgoyne, and after his defeat at Saratoga this branch of the Schoolcrafts fled to Canada. It's no wonder that Henry Rowe, our pretender to a blue blooded, solidly patriotic - American line, covered up this Tory activity.

Another of James' sons, perhaps his first child, was baptized at Schenectady in 1720, and we assume he was born in the same year. The boy's name appears with various spellings as he grows and pops up in history from time to time; but to make life easier, wherever reference is made to him, he will be called "Astien," the name shown on the baptism records. From now on the focus will be on this man - Astien - and his family, for it is they who figured so dramatically in the pioneer days of West Virginia.

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Astien married Catharine Countryman, another German girl, and two children were baptized at Schoharie: James in 1743, and Matthias, born in 1745. Based upon evidence which shows up later in West Virginia, they must have had a third son, John, born earlier in perhaps 1740 or 1741.

Astien and his family left New York sometime between 1745 and 1749 when we find them in Berk's County, Pennsylvania, at Tulpehocken, a colony of Palatines from New York which had been established some years prior under the leadership of Conrad Weiser. In that year - 1749 - a daughter, Catharine Lisabetha, was baptized at Tulpehocken. Next, we locate Astien eleven years later in Augusta County, Virginia - in 1760 - and we can pinpoint the family's residence in 1766 as being in what is now Highland County. In that year Astien's sons John and Matthias had land surveyed for them, and from these surveys we know that both Astien and his son Matthias claimed land on the South Branch of the Potomac River. By that same year - 1766 - the family may have run into financial difficulties, for the names of Astien, John and Matthias appear on a delinquent tax list. None of them ever received title to their land, and so we may surmise that before moving on they assigned or lost their land claims.

"Moving on" they did do - over the mountains, probably using ancient Indian trails. From certificates issued by the Commissioners in Clarksburg in 1781 we know that by 1774 the family had made its appearance in what are now Lewis and Upshur Counties, setting the stage for the events to come - a story which has parts that are potentially "stranger than fiction."

To understand subsequent events, we must first think a little bit about the situation facing those pioneer people. For many years the Indians had freely roamed the territory west of the Allegheny Mountains. The Shawnees, who lived on the plains in Ohio, traveled at will into Kentucky and West Virginia - an area which was used by them and other tribes as a common hunting ground. Quite expectedly, when the white men began settling west of the mountains, the Indians became alarmed and disturbed. Although the clothing, diet, and general lifestyle of those pioneer white people were not really that much different from those of the Indians, the pioneers and the red men must have sensed that their cultures would never mix. A struggle for survival ensued.

By 1774 the tension had mounted to the point that Governor Lord Dunmore of Virginia decided to lead an army of militia and volunteers into the Indians' homeland in Ohio. The call to arms must have been almost a holy one - reminiscent of World War I, "the war to end all wars" - because several thousand men joined the cause. This was quite a phenomenal response considering how sparsely settled western Virginia was at that time. The Governor's forces were divided into two groups, one of which was organized at Camp Union (now Lewisburg) and traveled

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up the Kanawha River to the Ohio. It was this army to which the Lewis-Upshur County men were attached, and it was this body of over a thousand men which, without design, engaged and defeated a large collection of Indians led by the Shawnee Chief, Cornstalk. This battle, in September of 1774 at Point Pleasant on the Ohio River, has been recognized as the first of the American Revolutionary War. The peace treaty which was then arranged by Lord Dunmore without further engagements - much to the dismay of the Virginians - did little more than insure a continuation of the struggle. Hagle, Pringle, Bush, Westfall, Stalnaker, Cutright, Petro, Hacker, Hughes, and Schoolcraft are just a few of the names appearing on the rolls of volunteers. While it is not known if they were present for the battle at Point Pleasant, John, James, Matthias, and Matthew Schoolcraft all appear on the rolls, so they must somehow have been involved in the campaign.

Within the territory of present day Lewis and Upshur Counties there were two primary forts in those days, both privately constructed: West's Fort on Hacker's Creek at Jane Lew (built by Edmund West, Sr.) and the larger fort at Buckhannon called Bush's Fort (built by John Bush). Neither of these so-called forts was much more than a blockhouse or oversized log cabin enclosed by a wooden stockade fence. They were gathering points, though, for the residents in the settlements surrounding them and offered some protection to the settlers who met there whenever threatened by Indian attacks. Together they are significant in that most of what survives in the history of the area occurred in relation to one or the other of them. In the early days, the Schoolcrafts seem to have been associated almost exclusively with the fort at Buckhannon, and this would be expected, since Astien claimed land on Fink's Run not far away. Later on, though, members of the family became closely linked with the settlement on Hacker's Creek, and for this reason, plus the fact that the lives of the residents around the two forts were then so intertwined, the events at each fort must be considered part of one picture.

The first mention of any Schoolcraft in the history of West Virginia was in June of 1778 and was in connection with West's Fort where John Schoolcraft and Jesse Hughes, who were outside the Fort, observed some Indians who were watching the action near the Fort. Three women had left the Fort to collect greens, and some Indians attacked them. Mrs. Freeman was stabbed by a spear, and Mrs. Hacker had a bullet shot through her bonnet before she went screaming toward the fort. This is the only reference to any Schoolcraft being in the Hacker's Creek settlement in the 1770's, and although John claimed land near Weston, he seems to have spent the next few years on Fink's Run where his father and brother James claimed land.

In the spring of the following year the threat of Indian savagery caused the break-up of the Hacker's Creek settlement, and its residents either retreated across the mountains or congregated at Buckhannon or at Nutter's Fort in Clarksburg. The family of John

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Schoolcraft must have been one of the ones which moved into the fort at Buckhannon, for that Spring his son Leonard, then about sixteen years of age, was captured by the Indians outside Bush's Fort. Leonard was taken to the Indian towns in Ohio and is reported to have successfully run the gauntlet. Apparently he was welcomed into his captors' tribe. (Was Leonard really captured, or did he voluntarily run away to join the Indians, who might have had the same allure for 18th century kids as eventually did the circus for more modern day youth?)

Later in the fall of that year, in the belief that the season for Indian incursions had ended, several families returned to their homes, and John Schoolcraft's was one of these. The house to which he returned must have been on Finks Run, for it is there that the next event is said to have occurred. A meeting was called at one of the forts - probably Bush's Fort - for the purpose of electing a captain, and John was one of the men who attended. In his absence from home Indians attacked and killed the women and eight children and took two small boys captive - apparently leaving no survivors at the site. (A little girl, who had been tomahawked and scalped, was found alive the next day, but she died not long thereafter.) A sign on U.S. Route 33 east of Lorentz commemorates this massacre.

Withers, in telling that story, used the word "women" - plural - and that implies that more than one family group was involved. It is entirely possible that Astien, John, and Matthias and their families, were all then living on the Fink's Run property, so that the women of which he spoke would have included the wives of John and Matthias, but not the wife of Astien. She, along with James and his family, was alive and well in the 1780's; and so, even though James claimed land on Fink's Run, we can speculate that perhaps he had not yet moved to the area and that his mother was living in his household, rather than with her husband. It is not known where James was living at that time, but it would not be surprising if he, like some of the Radcliffs and others, was then what could be called an "absentee landlord" - entrusting the care of his land to other family members while maintaining his residence in safer environs back closer to or across the mountains.

That next winter - the winter of 1779-1780 - was particularly harsh but welcomed by the settlers on Hacker's Creek who took this opportunity of respite from Indian attacks to return to their homes. The Indians seldom traveled much in the winter time, not only because of the cold, but because their trail of tracks through the snow made pursuit easier for the settlers.

When Spring came in 1780, the Hacker's Creek residents moved into West's Fort which soon thereafter was invested by some Indians. Weak in numbers, the settlers knew their chances for survival were slim without help; and so in order to obtain reinforcements one of them, Jesse Hughes, who was about thirty years old, broke through the Indian sentinels one night and ran to the fort at Buckhannon,

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a distance of approximately fifteen miles. (Would anyone dare say he was not in good physical shape?) Before the next morning he returned with a party of men and the decision was made to abandon the fort at Jane Lew once again in favor of the more secure fort at Buckhannon. This time the Indians burned West's Fort.

Two days after the settlers arrived at Buckhannon several men, including Simon Schoolcraft, left the fort to retrieve some of their neighbors' belongings. Among the group were Henry Fink, who lived on the Run which was named for him, and Edmund West, Sr., and his son Alexander West, who lived on Hacker's Creek; and therefore we can't determine from the identity of the participants where they may have gone. Upon their return, from wherever they had been, they were attacked by some Indians and shots were exchanged. Simon was wounded by a bullet which passed through his arm, but more serious injury was prevented when the bullet fortuitously struck a steel tobacco box in his waistcoat pocket.

Simon and another Schoolcraft, Michael, may have been sons of Matthias (alternatively, they could have been Matthias' brothers or nephews), and the fact that none of them was involved in the massacre on Fink's Run could be explained if they too were at the fort for the election. If that is where in fact they were, the inference could be drawn that Simon and Michael were old enough to be considered men. Based upon all we know, a good guess would be that both were in their teens, or at most, their early twenties. Whatever their relationship, these three - Matthias, Simon and Michael - encountered some Indians in April of 1781 while returning to the fort at Buckhannon from hunting pigeons. Matthias was killed, and Simon and Michael were taken captive. Nothing more is known about Michael; but we know that Simon was taken to the Indian towns in Ohio, and that less than a year later, in August of 1782, he accompanied several hundred Indians and rangers under a British Captain, William Caldwell, on an expedition into Kentucky which was designed to wipe out the new settlements there. Only one major battle occurred and that was at the Lower Blue Licks in what is now Nicholas County. Dozens of settlers were killed, however, including one of the sons of Daniel Boone. The last we know of Simon is that several years later, in 1790, he was in the Detroit area attempting to obtain a grant of land from the British as payment for his services to the Crown.

Returning to the situation in 1780 - after the Indians had been noticeably absent for some time, several of the settlers, including Astien Schoolcraft, decided to move back home. As he and his niece were engaged in taking some of their property to his house - probably on Fink's Run - they were attacked by Indians. Astien was killed, and the girl was taken captive.

No other family seems to have suffered as much at the hands of the Indians as did the Schoolcrafts. After Leonard was captured

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only the incident when Simon was wounded involved anyone outside the family. Furthermore, history has recorded no other Indian activity in the Hacker's Creek or Buckhannon settlements on or about the various dates the Schoolcrafts were attacked. Was this just a coincidence that so many Schoolcrafts were murdered on different occasions, or could it be that this was planned retribution or vengeance led by Leonard? Could he have had some imagined or real grievance against his family, sufficient to have caused such fury?

Based upon his later conduct, we know that Leonard had the capability for murder. The evidence is pretty clear that a little over eight years after his capture, in December of 1787, he was the leader of a small band of Indians who ventured into the Hacker's Creek settlement seemingly for the purpose of killing Mary Ann Hacker, the then new wife of Edmund West, Jr. The legend that Leonard killed a girl who had spurned him lends considerable support to the theory that his conduct in 1787 was designed and not accidental, and if that is the case, what about the near annihilation of his family? One certainly is caused to wonder!

Now, to finish the story of the two pioneer forts - in the spring of 1782, Bush's Fort at Buckhannon met the same fate that West's Fort had two years earlier. In March of that year, in an encounter with some Indians in sight of the Fort, William White, who was the captain of the militia, was killed, and Timothy Dorman and his wife were taken captive. The remaining settlers feared reprisals led by Dorman, who had been known for his reckless and undisciplined conduct; and therefore, having lost their strong leader, they decided to abandon the Fort. Shortly after doing so, it was burned to ashes by the Indians, and the inhabitants of the Buckhannon settlement dispersed to Clarksburg and the Tygart's Valley.

Thus, within a period of four years, the settlements on Hacker's Creek and at Buckhannon were broken up, and their forts destroyed. The settlers on Hacker's Creek rebounded quickly, though, and a new fort was built at Jane Lew - perhaps even during the winter of 1780 - 1781, before the destruction of Bush's Fort. This new building and stockade were made from beech logs - hence its name "Beech Fort" - and located just behind the present day firehouse. If in fact the new fort was built before the spring of 1782, it must have been a fairly substantial structure - maybe even offering more protection than the fort at Buckhannon. We know from the fact that it remained in existence for many years that the Indians never set fire to it. The implication here is that, if in fact it was built in the 1780-1781 period, the settlers on Hacker's Creek did not abandon it in 1782; for if they had, the Indians would surely have destroyed it that year, at or about the time they burned Bush's Fort.

Beech Fort would have been built no later than 1783, for we know that the settlers began returning to the Lewis and Upshur County settlements that year upon the signing of the treaty which ended the

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Revolutionary War. Even though Indian attacks didn't entirely cease for many years, they did seem to lessen in frequency, and from then on the white men had a permanent hold on the territory.

The two boys who were captured on the day of the massacre escaped from the Indians after a few years, probably by 1784, and were able to make their way back to the white settlements. By this time their father, John, seems to have once again become associated with the folks on Hacker's Creek, and although he may have gone back to the South Branch for a while when the Buckhannon settlement broke up in 1782, he was back on Hacker's Creek in 1784. It was there where the two boys - John and Jacob - probably arrived.

Their father, John, is said to have been overjoyed by their escape from the Indians, but his great pleasure may have been more than what first meets the eye. It seems that he was then having financial difficulties, and at least one lawsuit was pending against him. In 1784 that matter was dropped by the plaintiff, John Wolf, and from court records we can tell what happened: To settle the case the father bound his fourteen year old son John into indentured servitude to Wolf. What gratitude for the boy's safe return! With no reflection on Wolf being intended, young John may even have wished he had stayed with the Indians.

Both of these boys later filed applications for Revolutionary War pensions, claiming to have been born in the 1750's, but this just can't be. They could not have served in that War as they stated, for if recorded history is even approximately faithful to the facts, they would have been in captivity at the time of the events they related. On top of that, they would have seen those events with young eyes - too young, anyway, for the kind of reporting which appears in John's application.

John and Jacob stayed in the Lewis County area, essentially for the rest of their lives; and while John seems to have had no children, Jacob is the progenitor of the dozens upon dozens of Schoolcrafts whose family tree has its roots in West Virginia in the early nineteenth century. It was his grandchildren whose loyalties were divided between the North and the South in the Civil War.

The father, John, continued to have financial troubles, and lawsuits continued to plague him. In 1786 Peter Kinshelo, who must have been a merchant of sorts, sued for almost ten pounds due and owing on John's account, which was reduced to writing and survives. Of interest are the debits for deerskin patterns, a blanket, a pack saddle, a lashing rope, a rifle, a bushel of Indian corn, and a gallon of whiskey. John's name disappears from the court records after 1787, and it can be assumed that one of two things happened: either he died or he took a form of bankruptcy, which in those days before the formal procedure was developed simply involved moving west.

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The family of Astien's son James seems to have avoided any tragedy caused by the Indians, and from the fact that his name fails to appear in West Virginia's history from 1775 to 1784, we may surmise, as mentioned earlier, that James was absent from this troubled territory until after the Revolutionary War. He did, though, make a trip to Clarksburg in 1781 to obtain a certificate from the Commissioners for his land on Fink's Run.

It is possible that he was living in what is now Randolph County, for we know from land descriptions that there was in the early days a Schoolcraft Run which apparently fed into Leading Creek. Logic tells us that this Run had to have been named after some member of the family, and James is the only Schoolcraft whose presence at that time can not be accounted for.

By 1784 James and his family, consisting of eight people including himself, were living on Hacker's Creek, and he seems to have stayed there for about ten years. Part of this family were his mother (Astien's widow), Catharine Countryman Schoolcraft, and possibly an aunt, Elizabeth Countryman. Apparently James avoided substantial financial difficulties, and he was respected highly enough in the community to have been asked to be a witness on the will of Edmund West, Sr.

Something happened, though, in the latter part of 1794 or the early part of 1795. James and his wife may have died, or he may have moved on. 1794 is the last year for which his name appears on the tax rolls, and in April of 1795, Catherine Schoolcraft, daughter of Elizabeth, was bound to John Hagle - the indication being she had no parents who could support her but was old enough to earn her keep. Additionally in early 1810, a fifteen year-old boy, John the Baptist Schoolcraft, was bound to George Deakon. We can tell from the court records that this boy was born in March of 1794. If James died about that time or had left the area - even if only to scout out some new land for his family - his daughter Catherine, probably a teenager, would have been a typical candidate for indentured servant.

One further piece of evidence seems to prove that for one reason or another the family broke up at that time. In October of 1795 a young James Schoolcraft married Mary Carpenter, and they then appear to have moved to Randolph County. We are fortunate to have surviving a note attached to the bond for this marriage, written by William Lowther who knew the couple, vouched for their being of legal age, and mentioned that they both were then "without parents." There is little doubt that this young man's father was James Schoolcraft of Hacker's Creek.

The words "without parents" imply that both the father and mother of young James had died or left the area. If John the Baptist was his baby brother and their mother died in 1795, Mary Carpenter may have acquired more than a new husband that year. Quite possibly she became a mother to the infant John. It is hard to conceive of

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little John's mother abandoning him, and so it is more likely that she died than that she moved away without him. (A thorough search in Morrison Cemetery on Hacker's Creek might turn up the evidence needed to determine just exactly what did happen to this family.)

Young James was born in about 1773, and most probably was the scout who served in Randolph County for a time in 1790. Another of those scouts was Jacob Reger, and so we can identify this James as being the Schoolcraft who was - using the words of McWhorter - Reger's "associate and boon companion."

On one of their hunting expeditions James saved Reger's life by killing a wounded bear which, after fastening his jaws on Reger's hip and hurling him to the ground, caught Reger by the shoulder and "shook him as a dog shakes a rabbit." Reger was a large man for his time, standing 6' tall at the age of twenty-three. (Ol' Bruin must have been one formidable bear.) Schoolcraft's height was reported as being 5'8", and this was probably not far from being an average height in those days.

Young James left the area after the tax rolls were prepared in 1803, but where he and possibly his father and Uncle John went when they emigrated is very much a mystery. There is an indication that they may have passed through the Cumberland Gap into southeastern Kentucky, but so far this can't be proved.

One of the early Kentucky Schoolcrafts, who may be the progenitor of those who trace their family to Pulaski County, was George Schoolcraft who served with the Kentucky militia in the campaign against the British in Canada during the year 1813. The culmination of that campaign occurred at the Battle of the Thames in which the British troops and their Indian allies were overwhelmingly defeated, but something else of immense impact happened: The great leader of the Shawnee Indians - Tecumseh - was killed on that field of battle. His death broke the back of collective Indian resistance east of the Mississippi River and sealed the fate of the Shawnees and the other tribes living in the Ohio Valley.

While many sons of Lewis County may have fought in the Battle of the Thames, we know who two of those very possibly were: George Schoolcraft and Tecumseh. Isn't it ironic that after all the tragedy which befell the Schoolcrafts in West Virginia at the hands of the Shawnee Indians, these two men - one white, one red - who were perhaps born within sight of Hacker's Creek, could be linked together in the death knell of Shawnee power?

By 1820 a James Schoolcraft appears first in Butler County, Ohio, and then later in Indiana. Admittedly any connection between this James and the Schoolcrafts of West Virginia is based solely on circumstantial evidence, but there is such an identity of ages and

- 12 -

given names, plus other bits and pieces of supporting fact, that the conclusion seems unavoidable: James the scout, husband of Mary Carpenter, first cousin of Leonard, and grandson of Astien from New York, is the same James who, after leaving Ohio in 1828, became one of the first settlers and landowners in Tippecanoe County, Indiana. He was a farmer, and somehow he had accumulated enough money to purchase 80 acres from the federal government in that frontier territory. The land in his part of the County was covered by timber and brush, so clearing enough for crops would have been backbreaking drudgery. His pride of ownership must have been tremendous, though, for in spite of all the claims made by his ancestors, he seems to be the first Schoolcraft in Astien's line who actually obtained legal title to a piece of land.

James didn't live long enough to enjoy much of the fruit of his labor. He died six years after arriving in Indiana, at the age of 60 years. His ownership of that land made it possible, though, for his son, also named James, to become a prosperous farmer and landowner - first there in Tippecanoe County, and later, after the Civil War, in Piatt County, Illinois.

From the day Astien left his German friends in New York, it took nearly a hundred years, several generations, at least five attempts at settlement, and nearly a thousand miles of travel for his family to reach the goal he must have envisioned as he traveled down the Susquehanna River toward Pennsylvania. What he couldn't possibly have even dreamed was the sacrifice and hardship, heartache, and tragic loss of life which would be encountered along the way - especially during the pioneer days in West Virginia. If Astien was comfortable in Lewis and Upshur Counties in the midst of streams, hills and hollows, he would have been right at home on the Indiana homestead - rolling, wooded and astride a meandering stream called "Buck Creek" - a name which, upon reflection, could just as easily be appropriately attached to many a creek in West Virginia.

15 September 1987  
Dennis B. Rodgers

\* \* \* \* \*

"If you cannot get rid of the family skeleton,  
you may as well make it dance." - George Bernard Shaw\*

\*(SEE: Collecting Dead Relatives, by Laverne Galeener-Moore, 1987.)

\* \* \* \* \*

## O, HACKER'S CREEK

Lyrics by Joyce Chambers and Joy Gilchrist

Tune: "O, Tannenbaum"

Written as we traveled I-77 and Route 50 to the 1987 Gathering.

O Hacker's Creek, O Hacker's Creek,  
Your waters are everflowing;  
O Hacker's Creek, O Hacker's Creek,  
We hold you so endearing.  
You spring from mountains and roll on  
To the West Fork and beyond so far;  
O Hacker's Creek, O Hacker's Creek,  
The home of pioneer descendants.

O Immigrant, O Immigrant,  
You came to us from far and near;  
O Immigrant, O Immigrant  
To settle this land we hold so dear.  
To the South Branch from across the sea,  
You cleared the land for you and me;  
O Immigrant, O Immigrant,  
We thank you for your courage.

O Pioneers, O Pioneers,  
You were so strong, and brave and bold;  
O Pioneers, O Pioneers,  
When you came from the lands of old.  
You were Germans, Irish and Scots  
And English, Dutch and Huguenots,  
O Pioneers, O Pioneers,  
We thank you for our homeland here.

O Frontiersman, O Frontiersman,  
You crossed the mountains with John and Sam,  
O Frontiersman, O Frontiersman,  
And settled at Buckanogon.  
There were Hackers, Sleeths, and Hughes's too,  
Radcliffs, and Browns, and Lowthers too,  
O Frontiersman, O Frontiersman,  
We thank you for our families.

O Settlers, O Settlers  
You built many forts and made your claims;  
O Settlers, O Settlers,  
Planted crops, fought Indians and hunted game.  
Your made your home in the wilderness  
And helped to fight for the old U.S.  
O Settlers, O Settlers,  
We thank you for your loyalty.

Descendants All, Descendants All,  
We have so much to be thankful for;  
Descendants All, Descendants All,  
That's the beginning and there's so much more;  
From seventeen sixty-nine till today  
About our folks at work and play  
Descendants All, Descendants All,  
Please join us now as we bow and pray.

We thank you, God; we thank you, God,  
 For Hacker's Creek and Pioneers,  
 We thank you, God; We thank you, God,  
 For all the laughter and the tears,  
 For mountains tall and valleys wide,  
 For sunshine, and the e'ven tide,a  
 We thank you, God; we thank you, God  
 For our blessed Saviour and our Guide.

Performed by the HCPD Quintet: Patty Swisher, Joyce Chambers,  
 Bill Hayes, Dennis Rodgers, and Ralph Hinzman.

# Generations

...A GAME OF FAMILY HISTORY

Remember your last family reunion? You exchanged stories about your ancestors and other members of the family told you whether your information was true or false. Some of the tales start serious research to find the answers. Sound like fun?

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YANKEE GIRL COMES HOME  
An Autobiography by Joyce McCay Chambers



Mildred Bernice Snow Cox and her husband, Chester Gerald Cox, were divorced. Due to problems of employment and not having enough money to support the family, their three children - Robert Harold Cox, Rebecca Ellen Cox, and James Richard Cox - were taken by Welfare.

Fortunately, Mildred's brother and sister-in-law, James and Maize Snow, wanted a better life for Rebecca. They took her and raised her as their foster child.

In late 1946, divorced and unmarried, Mildred found herself "with child". Due to the "signs of the times" knew she could not keep and raise the child. She discussed the problem with Eileen Crail, the nurse who would be in charge of the baby.

They knew James Young and Mildred Mae McCay of Mishawaka, Indiana, were wanting to adopt a baby girl and would be able to provide the financial needs of raising a child, the religious upbringing a child would need, and the love and care that Mildred could not provide.

They knew of James and Mildred McCay because, as all genealogists are aware, families get tied together somehow. Mildred McCay's step-father, Enos Wallace, was from Kokomo and lived in Misawaka. Well, the Wallaces, Snows, Crails, and Wardens (who will be mentioned later) lived on Main Street in Kokomo. These families were cousins.

Mildred and Eileen contacted the McCays.

I was born May 18, 1947, in Kokomo. I was a blue-eyed, black-haired baby girl. Eileen was my nurse and my middle name is for her.

Eileen called the McCays and told them of my birth.

Within two days, I became the McCay's daughter. I also became the sister of a proud Roger Paul McCay, aged six, who had also been adopted by the McCays. We lived at 507 West Grove Street in Misawaka, Indiana.

The McCays were members of the First Baptist Church of Mishawaka and I was to be raised in that church. I attended Mary Phillips Elementary School, Main Junior High School and graduated from Mishawaka High School in June 1965.

I then attended and graduated from Bethel College in Mishawaka, Indiana, in August 1968. I went to Bethel, a liberal arts college, to become an elementary music teacher. (I had been taking piano lessons since the age of four.) The music professors wanted me to become a concert pianist, but I was against the idea and changed my major to elementary teaching.

While doing my student teaching at John Franklin Nuner Elementary-Junior High School in South Bend, Indiana, in a 3/4 grade classroom, I met James M. Chambers, Jr., the guidance counselor.

James "Jim" and I were married on August 9, 1968, at my church. We made our home in South Bend.

In the fall of 1968, I became a third grade teacher at Nuner School and Jim continued being its counselor for that year. I began my Masters Degree in Elementary Education with study at the South Bend extension of Indiana University (IUSB).

Jim became the assistant principal of Andrew Jackson High School (later to become a middle school) in 1969.

In December 1970, for the Christmas holidays, my parents drove to

Bradenton, Florida, to visit my father's two sisters. They arrived on Sunday, December 20, and did not find the sisters home. They walked across the four-lane highway in front of the sisters' trailer park to possibly look at trailers or wait at a restaurant. They, for some unknown reason, changed their minds and turned around in the median.

They were struck by a car.

Mother died immediately and my father was taken to Manatee Hospital in Manatee Hospital in Bradenton.

My brother, an uncle (one of my father's two brothers), Jim and I drove to Florida (December weather was too bad to fly) to see my father in the hospital. We arrived in Bradenton on Tuesday, December 22, 1970, at 9:00 pm; at 10:00 pm, Dad passed away. My brother and I were able to see him before, thanks be to God.

We arranged for them to be brought home to Mishawaka and we had a double funeral service on Monday, December 28. They are buried in the City Cemetery in Mishawaka on the Booher plot because Booher was my mother's maiden name.

In August 1973, knowing I was going to have our first-born in January 1974 and thinking of the past and future as these things make one do, I was looking through and organizing family pictures when a picture that Mother had shown me when I was 21 fell into my lap. At that time, Mother had wanted me to know more about my adoption and had told me that the younger woman in the picture was my real mother. I had shrugged my shoulders and said, "So what, you're my parents," and that was the end of the conversation. But now, with a child on the way and my curiosity about my real family growing, I immediately called Eileen Crail, my nurse, who was living in Florida.

I told her about the picture and of my desire to know more about my real family. I told her that I needed answers to some questions and, with the folks gone, she was the only one surviving that knew the story of my adoption and my real family. She was to come to Kokomo for a visit later that month and I was going to ask her these questions.

We met and she told me that in the picture was my mother, Mildred Bernice Snow Cox holding half-brother Bob, my grandmother Hazel Hester Snow, and my great-grandmother Rebecca Fitzsimmons HACKER. She told me of my other half-brother and half sister and assured me that the father of those children, Chester Gerald Cox, was not my father and she didn't know who my father was. She said that Cox had died of sugar diabetes. She didn't know where my mother was at the time (1973). She also shocked me by telling me that she and I are "out in the pasture" cousins. We had been in close contact for thirty some years but this was the first time that I knew we were actually related.

Years passed. Our son, Brian James Chambers, was born January 24, 1974; and our daughter, Alicia Joyce Chambers, was born February 13, 1981. On July 3, 1982, I received a call from Eileen in Florida. She said, "Your mother has died in Elkhart. I don't know what you want to do."

I immediately grabbed our "South Bend Tribune" paper and, sure enough, I found the obituary. I told Eileen that I certainly would go to the funeral home since Elkhart was only ten miles east of South Bend.

Sunday, July 5, 1982, I walked into the funeral home. My palms and forehead were sweaty, my legs were shaking, and my heart was pounding - I was going to see my mother that I never knew!

I looked at her in the coffin - a lovely, gray-haired lady and I saw a distinct resemblance.

Behind me, I could hear a young lady's voice and I thought then she must be one of the two Boyer daughters mentioned in the obituary

(Eileen had not known that Mildred had remarried and had two girls after me)...

I asked of this lady, "Are you one of the daughters?"

With a smile coming on her face, she replied, "Yes, I'm Marilyn."

I said, "I don't know know you, but is Bob, Jim, or Rebecca here?"

Marilyn, meanwhile, was motioning for someone. She told me later that she had seen a definite resemblance between her sister and me.

I said, "Wait a minute. I debated on coming, but Mildred was my natural mother."

By this time, Marilyn was hugging me and a big man was on the other side of me, hugging me, and I asked him, "Who are you?"

He replied, "Bob. Thank God somebody got ahold of you."

Well, I fainted between them!

They took me to the lounge and I recovered from the shock. We proceeded to talk, laugh, and cry from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm.

Half-sister Barbara Elaine, Marilyn's full suster, came in, sat down beside me and said, "Is anybody going to introduce us?"

Barbara was my baby sister and is my look alike.

Bob, Marilyn and Barbara told me that they had pressured Mildred, while she was dying of cancer, about them getting in touch with the baby girl that was adopted out. (You see, that had always known about me.) Mildred told them, "No, she's married and has a family. Don't disrupt her life."

IF she had only known that I was searching for her.

The next day, July 6, at the funeral in Elkhart, I met sister Becky from Kokomo. We took our mother to Kokomo to Sunset Memorial Gardens for a service and burial; then Becky had everyone at her house for a dinner after the service and we had a family picture taken.

I stayed that evening and the next day went to my "Aunt Fannie" Warden's farm in West Middleton, Indiana, which is outside of Kokomo. Fannie and her deceased husband, Edgar, were known to me all my life as "aunt" and "uncle" and I had always thought they were related through my adopted parents. Well, now I found out from Aunt Fannie that Uncle Edgar was a cousin of my real mother and I was ACTUALLY related to them.

Aunt Fannie shared Uncle Edgar's grandfather's farm ledger with me. In this, I found a picture and obituary of William Hacker. (See next page.) Also, I found notations made about cutting Bec Hacker's hay and delivering things to Bec Hacker. Bec Hacker was my great-grandmother.

Fannie took me to see my grandparents' Snows' graves and those of the Wallaces and Wardens who were all related to me through either my real family or my adopted family.

In March 1983, I met my half-brother, Jim Cox. He was a truck driver and had been unable to be at Mother's funeral.

The next month, we lost brother Bob to a brain hemorrhage. Bob had obtained a book on the SNOW family that mother had started. I, of course, showed great interest and the others agreed that I could have the book.

By the summer of 1984, I was reading the "Michiana Roots" article, a column on genealogy in the "South Bend Tribune" every Sunday, and I came across the announcement of the Hacker's Creek Pioneer Descendants Gathering that Lolita Guthrie had sent to the paper with Joy Gilchrist's name and address.

I knew that my great-grandmother had married a John Hacker, so I sent a letter of introduction with a copy of the William Hacker obituary.

Joy immediately contacted me and we made plans to meet at her house in Ohio before going to the gathering in the fall.

I did just that. We talked into the wee hours of the morning and

the next day we drove to Bob Smith's house in Lost Creek, West Virginia. That evening, with all of us sitting at the Smith's kitchen table and with the research that I had found, together with information from Bob's and Joy's files, we found that I, indeed, belonged in the John Hacker of Lewis County, West Virginia, line. I was through David S. Hacker.

John H. Hacker who had married my great-grandmother, Rebecca "Bec" (Fitzsimmons) Hacker, was born 18 August 1854 in Westfield, Hamilton County, Indiana, a son of David S. and Catharine (Dunn) Hacker. He married Bec in 1887 and died in 1897 and is buried in Tipton, IN. David S. Hacker was born ca 1832, probably in Hamilton County where his parents, John Wesley and Mary Ann (Raines) Hacker, were living after their migration from what was then Harrison County, Virginia, but is now Lewis County, West Virginia.

John Wesley Hacker was a basket maker. He was born 5 Jan 1792 and was a son of William and Mary "Adah" (West) Hacker. John W. married Mary Ann Raines on April 18, 1814, in Harrison County, with his father performing the ceremony. Mary Ann was born about 1791 and was a daughter of John Raines. John W. and Mary Ann moved to Indiana sometime after their marriage. They probably followed his uncles, Alexander and John and their families, out there. We aren't sure how many children John W. and Mary Ann had.

William Hacker was the first-born son and second child of John Hacker for whom Hacker's Creek is named. His mother was Margaret Sleeth. William was one of the original author's of CHRONICLES OF BORDER WARFARE. Mary "Adah" West was born 20 Dec 1770, the daughter of Edmond West Sr., who migrated to Harrison County (now Lewis), and his wife, Mary. Edmond built West's Fort with his sons and was later killed by the renegade, Leonard Schoolcraft, and his Indian friends.

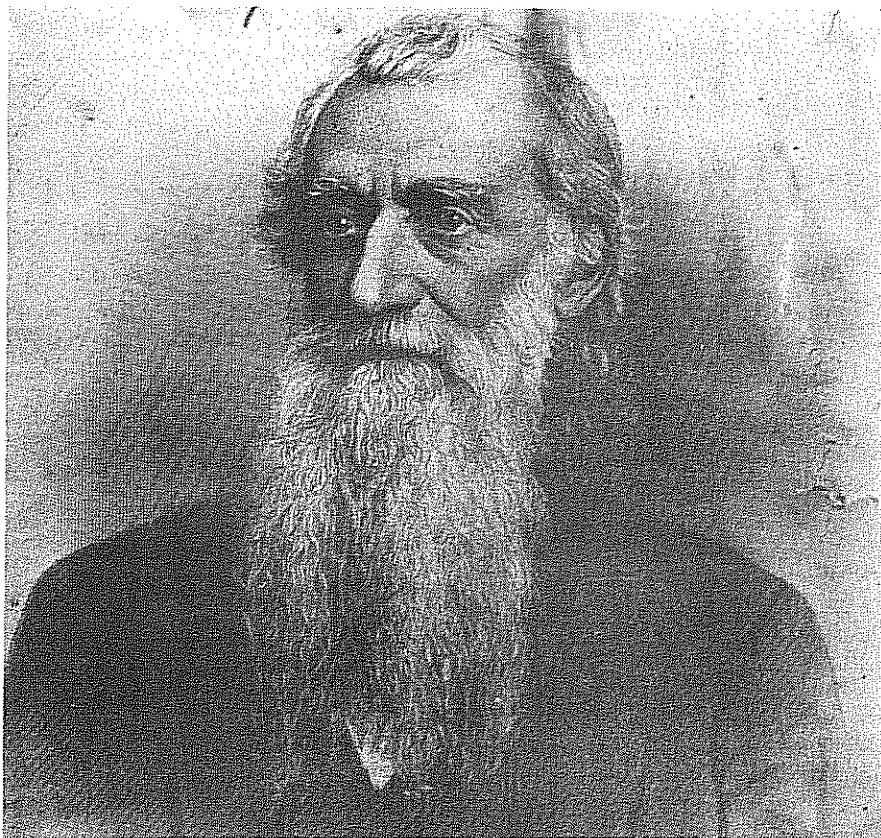
The William Hacker whose obituary I had found was a nephew of my g·g·g·g· grandfather, William Hacker, and a son of John and Mary Susannah (Smith) Hacker, and a grandson of John Hacker, the pioneer, and his wife, Margaret, and of David and Lydia (Ball) Smith.

I really enjoyed the HCPD Gathering that year. I was the "baby" Hacker and got to meet the oldest Hacker in attendance that year, John Hacker of Tyler, Texas. I felt like I had "come home."

But wait, the story isn't finished yet. On my return to Indiana, I shared the excitement of the Gathering and the new found link to Hacker's Creek with my sisters. One evening, we were looking through the memory book of our mother's funeral, I came across the entry of Dick and Peggy Fitzsimmons. I said to my sisters, "Fitzsimmons. I have cousins by the name of Fitzsimmons."

I explained that a Fitzsimmons family lived on the same block where I was raised. The "kids of the neighborhood" would always look forward to going to see "Grandma Fitz" (Dick's mother) and to having some of her famous sugar cookies. My mother McCay had told me that the Fitzsimmons were cousins, but she didn't know that they were my NATURAL cousins. Sister Barb told me that - she said, "Yes, Dick Fitzsimmon's was Mom's cousin!"

Oh my! Another piece to the puzzle. That is just what my story is - a puzzle with so many pieces and still forming year after year at the Hacker's Creek Pioneer Descendants Gathering. So, from the Yankee Girl who has come home, come join us and see if there aren't puzzle pieces for you.



#### A Noted Mason Dead

The Demise of William Hacker at a ripe old age.  
Shelbyville July 29, 1891

William Hacker died today, aged ninety-two.

No man was better known in the masonic fraternity than William Hacker, who has been an active member for fifty-nine years.

In the year 1498 so far as is now known, his line of descent commenced at the birth of Wilhelm Heckardt, near the city of Dresden in Saxony.

The descendants of Hacker fled to Holland and thence, in 1725, to America. They settled in Virginia and in 1773 John Hacker, father of the subject of this sketch was born in a block house on the west fork of the Monongahela. In 1809 John and his family moved to what was then known as the Big Darby plains in Ohio, and on Dec. 5, 1810, William Hacker was born.

He lived with his parents until he was seventeen, during which time he went in winter to school & obtained a common education. In 1839 he and Miss May Ann Sargent of Pennsylvania were united in marriage. He came with his father to Shelby county in 1833 and has resided here ever since. In 1838 he embarked in the mercantile business and continued in it five years. In 1843 he assisted in the organization of a railroad company, became its secretary and superintended the construction of the road.

He was made a mason by St. John lodge No. 14, in Dayton, O. in July 9, 1832, and has been an officer in the various grades of the order ever since, having gone entirely through and completely mastered the craft. He became a member of the grand lodge of Indiana in 1835 and served as its grand master and grand secretary for two and three years respectfully. He became a member of the Grand Chapter of

(Continued on page )

Indiana in 1848 and assisted in its labors every session since. He served four years as grand high priest and three years as grand secretary. He assisted in the organization of the Grand Council of Indiana in 1855 and served six years as its grand master and three years as its grand recorder. He also assisted in the organization of the grand commandery of knights templars of Indiana in 1854 and filled every station in that body from recorder to grand commander. For the past twenty-four years he has been annually placed at the head of the committee on jurisprudence in all those bodies.

He became a member of the general grand chapter and grand encampment of the United States at Hartford, Conn. in 1856 and held an office in those bodies twelve years.

He joined the methodist episcopal church in 1825 and has lived a consistent Christian to his death.

\* \* \* \* \*

"Research in West Virginia", quoted from:

Reed, Evan L. Ways and Means of Identifying Ancestors, Chicago, Illinois, Ancestral Publishing & Supply Co., 1947, 218pp. p. 104.

It is to be kept in mind that West Virginia was a part of Old Virginia until the latter state decided to join the Confederacy, and therefore its early history is tied up with the Old Dominion, although it conforms more to the Shenandoah Valley Region than to the Tidewater Region of the state. In fact no less an authority than John Fiske states in his history, "Virginia and Her Neighbors" that the much greater part of the inhabitants were Scotch-Irish, who it will be remembered, were at first in Pennsylvania and migrated down the Valley from where commencing about 1750 they spread into what is now West Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee. Of course mixed in with them were the Germans who also had emigrated to the Valley and sons of the Tidewater settlers. The date of organization of the counties as shown in the table, will indicate approximately when the regions were opened up. It is stated that in 1754 when Hampshire County was formed the center of the region which contained the pioneer settlers can be included in an irregular line drawn from the Blue Ridge through Harper's Ferry, Charlestown, Martinsburg, Berkeley Springs, Romney, Moorefield, Petersburg, Upper Tract, Franklin, Marlinton and thence down the Greenbrier and through Monroe County to Peter's Mountain.

After the Treaty of Fort Stanwix settlers pushed forward over the mountains to the Greenbrier and New Rivers, to the Monongohela, down the Ohio as far as Grave's Creek.

Until the conclusion of the Revolutionary War the settlers were never free from Indian incursions and the western part of the state was not settled until about the time of the settlement of Kentucky.

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For Revolutionary Records consult Pennsylvania and Virginia Sources.

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JOHN MITCHELL -- HACKER'S CREEK PIONEER

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J O H N   M I T C H E L LThe Life and Times of a  
HACKER'S CREEK PIONEER

by

William Foster Hayes III

(CONTINUED)

\* \* \*

What was Hacker's Creek like in 1803, when John Mitchell arrived? Indians (Iroquois, Cherokee, Delaware, Susquehanna and Shawnee) still came there, during months of clement weather, for salt and to hunt game.

The bison and antelope had already decided there was too much human activity in the area and had moved west, followed by their chief predators the wolf packs. But game was still abundant. Doves of white-tailed deer melted in and out of the forest shadows, where every tree had its resident family of gray squirrels. Late in the autumn familiar sounds included the clash of elk antlers, as the bulls sought supremacy over each other, and the subsequent shrill whistles of the triumphant males rutting with their harems. Black bear were everywhere, climbing trees for honey, fishing in the streams, overturning large rocks for grubs. Gray foxes scampered up into the trees, and red foxes searched the ground, in their crafty hunt for rodents, rabbits and wildfowl. Mink, opossum, muskrat and raccoon scavenged at twilight, listening warily for the foraging call of the panther and bobcat. The streams, apt to flood their banks every spring, were busy with beaver and otter, and flashing with edible trout, bass and walleyed pike. Hairy-tailed moles dug their tunneled mazes. Folks kept an eye out for copperheads and eastern hognosed snakes.

The Mountain State landscape was always rugged with steep hills; better than two thirds of that land has a slope of 25 degrees or more. The mountaineers thereabouts always had a sense of humor about themselves and their hillside farms. In 200 years the legends have all run to about the same exaggeration: The startled traveler pulls his horse up short. Just before him a farmer stands in the road, cursing violently and beating the dust from his clothes. "What in tarnation happened?", calls out the bewildered traveler. The farmer scowls up at the hill rising sharply by the side of the dirt road, then growls, "I'll never git finished grubbin' that

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danged cornfield up thar. Three times already this morning I fell out!" Then, as the visitor stares in disbelief, the farmer props a ladder against the mountainside and climbs back into his field.

Or they tell about the field where the pumpkins had to be tied down so they wouldn't roll away. Or about the farmer who had to sow corn in his field by climbing the hill opposite it, shouldering his gun and shooting the seed across. Or about the man who used to look up his "chimley" to see if his cows were coming home. Or about the special mountain-bred cows with legs on one side shorter than on the other, so's they could lazily circle around the slopes, munching grass without straining any of their leg muscles.

But, seriously now, once you cleared away the rocks, the soil was nutritious, "good for growing 'most anything." Natural salt ponds and licks saved settlers the trouble of continually packing it in over the mountains for their livestock and stewpots. Thick hardwood forests provided ample building material for new homes and barns. Water was never a problem as there was always plentiful rain and snow. Streams were swift-running enough to power saw mills. Trees grew in profusion, to great height, lush, fruitful. Massive black oak, stately poplar, swaying hickory, chestnut, ash, beech, walnut, sugar maple, sycamore, balsam fir, yellow birch, butternut, cherry, tulip, hemlock, crabapple, apple, peach, red spruce and white pine framed the sky along the stream banks and atop the hillcrests. And mixed in for color were dogwood, redbud, white-blossomed hawthorn, azalea, shasta daisy, aster, black-eyed Susan, celandine poppy, bachelor button, goldenrod, rhododendron (big laurel) and bloodroot. Plats of ramps added their special fragrance, redbirds lent their daring brilliancy, wild turkey gobbled their mournful song, red-headed woodpeckers drummed without cease. Other frequently-seen birds: red crossbill, tufted titmouse, chimney swift, black-billed cuckoo, red-shouldered hawk.

Blackberries and purple-flowering raspberries grew within easy picking distance of every home, as did nuts of all kinds. Wild grapes grew "by the ton." Settlers encouraged the nearby growth of pears, plums and cherries. Their first crop was corn, but they soon added beans (to dry for the winter), oats, wheat, peas, hay, tobacco, barley, buckwheat and white potatoes.

What else did the pioneers eat? Flapjacks (sourdough as well as buckwheat), corn bread and johnnycakes, biscuits, stews, and, of course, they raised beef cattle and dairy cattle, chickens, geese, hogs and sheep on a small scale. Therefore, there could be a variety of meals: chicken stew, ham with biscuits, bacon and eggs, salt pork, beef jerky, roast goose, mutton chops, plus all the sundry wild game.

What were pioneer necessities? Absolute prime necessities: rifle and ax! After that: horses, mules, oxen, tools of carpentry. Hickory bows and arrows, strung with twisted linen and feathered with wild-turkey feathers, were used for killing small game. Flintlock rifles, with carefully hoarded powder and lead balls, were for large game. They and flintlock pistols served as major protection against human enemies, cattle thieves, transient crimi-

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nals. Primitive steel knives were thinly coated with bear-grease against rust. Cast iron pots were all-purpose, kitchen utensils were make-shift, cellars were for food storage. Pine-knot torches or crude lamps, made by placing a twisted string in a gourd filled with tallow or animal fat, provided light during the night-time hours. Wooden plates, placed on the rough-hewn tables, held the meat that was cut with hunting knives at mealtime. Food was washed down with fresh milk, rye coffee, sassafras tea or home-made beer. Folks made their own sugar by boiling sap from the sugar maple trees.

Corn and meat were their basic foods. The family ate corn in some form at almost every meal. Corn was their chief crop. Corn meal was used to make mush, porridge, cornbread (ashcake, hoecake, johnny-cake, corn pone). For a special treat, ears of corn were roasted.

Pioneers hunted wild fowl (duck, pigeon, turkey) and game (bear, deer, opossum, rabbit, squirrel). To keep meat from spoiling they cut it into strips to dry in the sun, smoked strips over a smudged fire, salted it or soaked it in brine.

Women and girls raised vegetables (beans, cabbage, squash, turnips) and herbs (dill, sage). Milk from the family cow was the chief mealtime drink. Coffee and tea were generally too expensive to drink at every meal. Corn whiskey was quick and cheap. Common sweeteners included honey, molasses, maple sugar, maple syrup.

Boys made bullets, carved wooden utensils, pounded corn with a small log and then ground it between two stones. Girls made candles, string, rope, spun linen-yarn from flax, wove cloth, spun wool-yarn from sheep's-wool, made shirts, trousers, dresses, shawls.

Men and women alike owned two outfits of clothing. One they wore all day, every day, the other was for church, weddings and funerals. Cloth clothing would last about two years (worn every day). Deerskin garments would last longer. Many frontiersmen wore deerskin hunting shirt and trousers. The shirt fitted loosely, hung to the thighs; with no buttons, it was held in place by a thong belt; minus a collar, it often sported a cape held in place by a fringe. Deerskin became cold and stiff when wet, uncomfortable next to the skin. A man in deerskin usually wore underclothes of linsey-woolsey, a home-made material of part linen and part wool. Most wore bandanas against dust and cold, buckskin jackets in winter.

Linsey-woolsey was the favorite material of the pioneer housewife for making clothes for herself and her children. Most pioneer women wore a long, heavy petticoat (with full sleeves), a dress that resembled a smock, often an apron. The petticoat was worn as a skirt, not as an undergarment. In cold weather, women added a shawl of wool or linsey-woolsey. Pioneer boys and girls wore the same kind of clothing as their parents, but rarely experienced the luxury of stockings or undergarments.

Since cowhide boots and shoes were hard to make, many (adults and children alike) went barefoot from spring to fall. In the cold months they wore home-made deerskin moccasins indoors. Outside

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they wore stout hide "shoepacks," which resembled moccasins, covered the ankles, had more sturdy soles. For warmth and comfort they stuffed their moccasins or shoepacks with deer hair or dry leaves.

In summer women and girls wore sunbonnets, in winter head-scarves or woolen bonnets. Men and boys wore coonskin caps or fur hats in cold weather, sunhats of loosely-woven straw or corn husks in summer.

A workshop to make tools was important. Mitchell and his sons would have had to construct their own hoes, plows, flails, harrows, rakes, pitchforks (deer antlers). They used gourds and animal horns for cups and containers.

Corn or corn meal was legal tender, or bales of tobacco, or corn whiskey. They bought iron bars from the local blacksmith, to make or repair tools. And, of course, they had to buy gunpowder and lead for bullets.

Women were the doctor/nurses. They made medicines from ginseng and jack-in-the-pulpit. Frequent illnesses: colds, pneumonia, ague. The women created a bag of asafetida (an herb that smells like garlic) to be worn around the neck to keep a person healthy. Serious diseases: cholera, smallpox, yellow fever. Coal oil cured everything.

Parents taught the kids a little reading and writing, spelling and arithmetic, but mostly how to live on the frontier. Children were quickly weaned to a life of ax, rifle, farm, tools, cook, spin, sew, weave, etc. Few books were available, so they learned by rote, scratched numbers and letters on boards with charcoal, made pens of goose quills, ink from bark or berries. Slates didn't come in until about 1825. Parents also taught hymns and prayers to their children, kept Sunday as a day of rest and worship, family and neighbor togetherness. Traveling preachers conducted church services, funerals, performed marriages and baptisms, led the pioneers in reciting prayers and singing hymns. Outlaws stole horses and cattle; when they were caught, they were immediately hanged or shot. Women made quilts out of all cloth scraps. Winter baths were taken in the large tub set out in the kitchen; summer baths were a cold splash in the creek.

John Mitchell and his family were survivors! Hacker's Creek Pioneers, in 1803, had to be.

\* \* \*

1804 -- Napoleon was crowned Emperor of France.

1805 -- Napoleon was crowned King of Italy.

1806 -- End of the Holy Roman Empire.

1807 -- First street-lighting by gas in London.

1808 -- The United States prohibited the importation of slaves

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from Africa. Pigtails, as a fashion in men's hair, began to disappear.

1809 -- James Madison was inaugurated 4th President. Abraham Lincoln was born.

1810 -- Napoleon, at his zenith, divorced Josephine, married the Archduchess Marie Louis. U. S. population: 7,239,881.

1811 -- King George III was declared incurably insane.

1812 -- Napoleon attacked Russia, was defeated ignominiously. The United States declared war on Great Britain (and Indians); the War of 1812 began.

\* \* \*

The Rev. John Mitchell had seven children by his second wife Susannah, all born in their farmhouse on the hill. That meant the first five were born in Harrison County.

The first child was Rebecca Mitchell, born about 1806, who never married. Rebecca died October 31, 1861.

Eli Mitchell, born 1808, married (about 1830) Delilah Windsor (born 1800), a native of Monongalia County. Eli died shortly after the marriage, about 1831. No children.

Catherine Mitchell, born 1810, married Phillip Petty, a resident of Noble County, Ohio. There is no record of their having children. Catherine died March 15, 1870.

In 1811, the Shawnee Chief, Tecumseh, traveled from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico, rallying for a united Indian nation to make a stand against the white man. His coalition failed in its one major confrontation against General William Henry Harrison at the Battle of Tippecanoe (Indiana). Then Tecumseh and a force of 600 Indian fighters joined the British against the Americans in the War of 1812. Tecumseh, given the rank of Brigadier General, was killed in battle in 1813. John Mitchell, at age 49, was not called to fight in that war.

The fourth child of John and Susannah Washburn Mitchell was Isaac Mitchell, born in 1813. About 1835, he married Delilah Windsor Mitchell, the widow of his older brother, Eli. They lived out their married life on a part of the old homestead. Isaac Mitchell became a doctor, specializing in the treatment of cancer. He died November 8, 1877, was buried on Jesse's Run, Lewis County.

The fifth child of John and Susannah, Benoni Mitchell, was born February 19, 1815. He married (about 1838) Susan Life (born March, 1817), daughter of Martin Life and Elizabeth Flesher, who was the daughter of Adam Flesher and Elizabeth Staats. Susan Life's ancestors were natives of Holland. Benoni and Susan produced eight children. He died at the old Mitchell homestead, November 6, 1903, at age 88, was buried in Old Harmony Cemetery.

Susan Life Mitchell lived to be a spunky 90 years old, dying in 1908. She used to relate to her grandchildren ("awed, with eyes very wide")

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that as a child she had been forbidden to eat tomatoes. "Love apples," as tomatoes were called then, were considered poisonous. When she disobeyed and ate the tasty but suspected "love apples," she was quickly dosed with melted lard to counteract the poison.

During those early years of the 19th century, Indians still presented an occasional threat to the pioneers' families and settlements. In 1780/1, Beech Fort had been built to replace the earlier West Fort as a bastion of defense. According to Edward C. Smith's A History of Lewis County,

Beech Fort was used for other purposes than for defense. The Rev. John Mitchell, first minister of the gospel on Hacker's Creek, alternately fought Indians and shepherded a more or less wayward flock, holding services within its walls. There is a tradition that the first school in Lewis County was held in Beech Fort (later called West's Fort), with the Rev. Mitchell as its teacher. The fort soon became the social center of the settlement. Primarily, however, it was for defense; and the settlers behind its strong walls, their numbers increased by constant new arrivals and occasionally by militia from the counties east of the mountains, had well-founded hopes of maintaining their positions against any force that the Indians were likely to send against them.

\* \* \*

1814 -- Napoleon abdicated, was banished to Elba. Louis XVIII became King of France. The British burned Washington, DC. Francis Scott Key's "Star Spangled Banner" was written, became the U. S. National Anthem.

1815 -- The War of 1812 ended. Napoleon landed in France, beginning the "Hundred Days." Napoleon, defeated by Wellington at Waterloo, abdicated again and was banished to St. Helena.

1816 -- Indiana became a state.

1817 -- James Monroe was inaugurated 5th President.

1818 -- Illinois became a state.

\* \* \*

The Rev. John Mitchell helped create Lewis County.

A bill entitled "An Act to provide for the formation of a new county from a part of Harrison" passed the General Assembly of Virginia on the 18th of December, 1816. This was to become Lewis County, so named in honor of Colonel Charles Lewis, who fell at Point Pleasant, Virginia, in Lord Dunmore's Indian War, October 10, 1774.

On March 10, 1817, in pursuance of said act, twenty leading citizens of Harrison County (including Mitchell) were appointed by Governor James Patton Preston, each holding a commission as Justice of the Peace. Said Commission assembled at Westfield (later Weston)

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and resolved themselves into the County Court of the newly-formed County of Lewis. John Mitchell was also named Commissioner of the Lewis County Revenue.

The sixth child of John and Susannah was Elizabeth Mitchell, born (now in Lewis County) in 1818. The Rev. John Mitchell (at age 73) performed her wedding ceremony, May 5, 1836, to George B. Bent. Elizabeth and George had 15 children, but eight died in infancy. Elizabeth died June 20, 1902.

Cassandra R. Mitchell was the ~~Seventh~~ and last child born to John and Susannah, about 1820. She was Rev. John's fifteenth child, he was 57 years old. Cassandra never married, stayed home to take care of her parents and their home, becoming the prime beneficiary in Susannah's will, dated March 29, 1843.

\* \* \*

1819 -- (Future Queen) Victoria was born.

1820 -- George IV became King of England. U. S. population: 9,600,000.

1821 -- Napoleon died.

1823 -- The Monroe Doctrine closed America to colonial settlement by European powers.

1825 -- John Quincy Adams was inaugurated 6th President.

1826 -- John Adams and Thomas Jefferson died on July 4th, 50 years (to the day) after the signing of the Declaration of Independence. French physicist Joseph Nièpce made the first photograph (on a metal plate).

1827 -- Noah Webster published The American Dictionary of the English Language. The first U. S. railroad, the Baltimore and Ohio, opened for business.

1829 -- Andrew Jackson was inaugurated 7th President. Slavery was abolished in Mexico.

\* \* \*

I'll go back a few years now and pick up an important thread that wove into the tapestry of John Mitchell's life: The Methodist Church.

John Wesley, born 1703, was an ordained minister of the Church of England. In 1729, while tutoring underclassmen at Oxford University, he, with his younger brother Charles Wesley, formed the Holy Club, a society which taught people to be Christians by leading a methodical, disciplined, actively spiritual life. His strict, orderly method became known as "Methodism." He stressed "salvation by faith" and "God's forgiveness of personal sins," and strongly emphasized that "salvation comes through work as well as faith."

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He tried to reform the Church of England. The Anglican authorities disapproved of his ideas, denied his attempts at reformation, finally closed the pulpits of the Anglican Church to him. Wesley then preached in open fields and on street corners. In 1739, he began organizing the local evangelical societies which eventually became the Methodist Church. He trained a group of lay preachers who traveled endlessly. These were his first itinerant preachers.

In 1742, Wesley and his followers began holding Class Meetings, groups of twelve who met weekly for prayer, Bible study, religious discussion and mutual help in Christian living. In 1744, he organized the first Conference of Methodist Ministers.

He remained loyal to the Church of England, but was determined to prove there was a better method to attain salvation. He and his brother Charles were greatly influenced by the writings of Martin Luther. They traveled, preached, organized societies and classes, wrote hymns, and trained, appointed and supervised their followers for the next 50 years. John Wesley's evangelical doctrines spread on a wave of devotion and enthusiasm.

Is it possible that John Mitchell's family (in Lancashire, England) was influenced by John Wesley and his growing Methodist Church?

Wesley, finally forced to recognize the obduracy of the Anglican Church, developed the United Societies as an independent church. In 1766 (Mitchell was three years old), he sent his first preachers to America. At the close of the War of Independence, at the time of the "disestablishment" of the Anglican Church in America, he sent Francis Asbury and Thomas Coke, the first American Methodist Bishops, to organize his church in America. Coke and Asbury, with 60 ministers, organized the Methodist Episcopal Church in Baltimore, MD, in 1784.

The denomination grew rapidly, establishing Conferences of Bishops, with traveling preachers called "circuit riders" carrying the Methodist religion to the frontier. Charles Wesley died in 1788, John Wesley in 1791, but their "Soldiers of Christ" marched forward in a continuous stream. They believed in a

personal religious experience in which each individual gives proof of his belief in Jesus Christ as his personal savior. This experience may be sudden and highly emotional for some. For others, it may involve quiet periods of study and prayer. But all Methodist Churches expect their members to declare their faith in Jesus Christ publicly. They strongly emphasize the necessity of being a church member. Methodists accept the Bible as the supreme rule of faith and religious practice.

Charles Wesley, an inspired lyricist, wrote texts for a score of magnificent hymns. His words of praise and salvation are to this day an integral part of Protestant hymnody. These include:

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"  
"Christ the Lord is Ris'n Today"  
"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

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"Jesus, Lover of My Soul"  
"Soldiers of Christ, Arise"  
"O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"  
"I Know That My Redeemer Lives"

The circuit-riding preachers knew all the stanzas to all the Wesley hymns, taught their parishioners words and melodies, and led the hymn-singing (a capella, of course) as a part of their regular services. They also taught and sang Martin Luther's stirring hymn "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God."

The Methodist Church, which officially began in America in 1784, was initially a group of missionaries who were licensed to preach and organize local Methodist Societies, but not to administer sacraments or celebrate marriages. By 1790, spreading successfully, Methodism was introduced into the upper Monongahela Valley. And, by this time, the organization of the church had crystallized into bishops and circuit-riding preachers. After some years of experience, the itinerant preachers were given authority over baptism, communion and marriage.

To recapitulate: John Mitchell made the decision to become a Lutheran in 1789, his experiences led him to decide for Methodism in about 1792, and he was ordained a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1800.

The Rev. Henry Smith, of the Baltimore Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, was appointed, early in 1794, to the "Clarksburg circuit." This began at Martins Church in Monongalia County, included Morgantown and extended as far as Buckhannon. The Meetings, except for the Martins Church (a small log building), were all held in private homes, usually the most commodious log cabins in each neighborhood. In June, 1794, Rev. Smith began making regular stops at the home of Joseph Bennett, about fifteen miles above Clarksburg. In his "Recollections of an Old Itinerant," Rev. Smith recalls that

There was a good congregation at that Meeting, all of the people coming barefoot except one old man, who wore shoes, and a local preacher named Joseph Cheuvront, who wore Indian moccasins.

Rev. Smith's next stop on the circuit was on Hacker's Creek, at the home of a son-in-law of John Hacker, a man named Stortze. Rev. Smith was happy to be well-received by the Hacker's Creek congregation. Dr. I. A. Barnes, in his History of the Methodist Protestant Church, says

In the early days of Methodism in America, every home was not open to the preachers, and many people opposed them, some openly denouncing them as fanatics. Those pioneer preachers, often riding hundreds of miles on horseback, were compelled to sleep in the woods and go all day without food. The sufferings, hardships and privations that many of them had to endure would deter any but the most courageous and enthusiastic Methodist from entering the itineracy. Truly, the seeds of

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Methodism were broadcasted in the wilderness in suffering and sacrifice.

Methodism soon took root and flourished in the Monongahela Valley. Preaching services were held regularly at various homes along Hacker's Creek, including that of its namesake John Hacker and that of Henry McWhorter. It is assumed that the Classes and Societies of these neighborhood home/churches invited the Rev. John Mitchell to move permanently (in 1803) into their community, to become their spiritual leader and guide. The Rev. Joseph Cheuvront championed this move.

Mitchell was welcomed into the Harrison County fold as a member of the family. At about age 45 he was described thus:

A very tall man, slender of hip, with chiseled face, long thin nose, thin lips, red-brown hair, high cheekbones, high forehead and sometimes a beard. He was filled with the love and joy of life, and often in the middle of a prayer or sermon would become emotional to the point of happy tears. Yet he did not hide his dark side. Rev. John could be private, moody, stubborn to excess. He did not take orders easily. He was a leader who needed to be in command. He knew he was right, which he most often was. He tailored his sermons to the need of the moment, appeared to prepare a scripture and basic thought but then let the prevailing spirit take over and guide his persuasive articulation. If he had to, Rev. John could take a body to task like a hungry bear in a hurry.

John Mitchell quickly became reknowned as a serious and eloquent preacher. It was said that often at the Meetings, which lasted a few days up to a few weeks, the fiery heat of his sermons supplied any warmth the wood fireplaces failed to give. Some of his sermons were so hot, in fact, that "his listeners would have to lift their feet from the floor to keep them from burning."

(TO BE CONTINUED)

## PART II

## THE RADCLIFFS OF HACKER'S CREEK

By Dennis B. Rodgers

JOHN RADCLIFF

Very probably the pioneer John was literate. He served in public office as an overseer of a highway in 1787,<sup>27</sup> and as a Justice of Peace prior to 1800.<sup>28</sup> Entries in the Minute Books of the County Court of Harrison County would seem to indicate that he served in this latter capacity until 1808 (Minute Book 1807-1809), p. 281). The signature of a John Radcliff appears on an attachment bond filed in the Harrison County Court records in the 1794 case of John Radcliff v. Peter Kinshelo,<sup>29</sup> but without more we cannot determine whether this signature was that of the pioneer John, or that of John the son of the pioneer William, who by 1791 began appearing on the same Harrison County tax list as his father.<sup>30</sup> As will be shown later the signature is most probably that of the pioneer John.

On 6 September 1783 John was granted the sum of £10.17 in payment for having provided rations to the militia in Monongalia County in June and August, 1778.<sup>31</sup> This is the only mention found involving John in the Revolutionary War.

John was quite successful as a farmer/land owner, for as we've seen, his name is associated with many land claims in the Elk Creek area; and he is reputed to have accumulated many acres. His Will, though, treats only two parcels: One on Elk Creek and the other on Gnatty Creek, comprising in total 359 acres. That Will was dated 30 December 1812, and was probated in Harrison County on 17 October 1814 (Will Book 2, p. 4; Minute Book 1814-1816, p. 27). The Will mentions his wife, Catherine; sons; John, Jonathan, Benjamin, and James; daughter, Susannah; and grand-daughter, Sarah Radcliff. Catherine's maiden name may have been "Fry," as recorded in the Stalnaker Bible entry, or according to some researchers, it may have been "Coburn."

The Harrison and Lewis County marriage records are replete with Radcliffs, but for the most part these parties can not be connected in family groups. Probably most are descendants of the pioneer John, for it is his family that seems to have remained in the area.

27. Haymond, p. 208.

28. Ibid, p. 428.

29. West Virginia and Regional History Collection, University of West Virginia, Colson Hall, Morgantown, W. Va.

30. See Footnote 4.

31. Virginia Archives, Public Service Claims, Reel 5, Monongalia County Commissioners' Book 2, p. 342.

I now affirm by these presents that Mr John Radcliff David Keyes  
and Mr Martin are firmly bound with Peter Pinckale in the sum of  
two thousand pounds Virginia Money for which payment well and truly  
to be made and done within our said term and administrators  
firmly by these presents or as unto the said date hereto before

The condition of the above obligation is such that whereas John Radcliff  
hath this day obtained from me Mr Martin a just peace for Harrison  
County against the estate of the abovesigned Pinckale for one thousand  
Pounds, returnable to our next court. Therefore the said Radcliff  
shall satisfy and pay all costs which shall be awarded in favour of said  
Pinckale in case the said Radcliff shall be cast in said suit and also  
all damages which shall be recovered against Radcliff for suing out said  
attachment. Then this obligation to be paid to Mr Martin  
John Radcliff  
David Keyes  
John Martin

Acknowledged and  
open Court

By John J.

J. J.  
David Keyes

Will of  
John Radcliff,  
Harrison  
County

John Radcliff's

Will

Harrison County Virginia 30<sup>th</sup>  
December 1812 John Radcliff of  
the County aforesaid do hereby

make and ordain this my

will and testament in manner and form following  
that is to say first I give to my son John Radcliff and  
his heirs forever all that tract or parcel of Land  
whereon I now live containing about two hundred  
and sixty two acres and lying in the said County  
on both sides of Elk Creek adjoining the Land of Jacob  
Jacob Adams and the Land of Benjamin Radcliff  
2<sup>nd</sup> I give to my Grand Daughter Sarah Radcliff &  
her Heirs forever all that tract or parcel of Land  
containing ninety seven acres and lying in the  
said County on Gnatty Creek adjoining the Land  
of John Hutson the Land of Thomas Hale and  
the Land of Moral Bice and the Land of Simon  
Arnold. 3<sup>rd</sup> I give to my wife Catherine Radcliff  
all my personale Estate of every description to  
have and to hold the same during her natural  
Life and after her death the same or such part  
thereof as may then remain to be Equally divi-  
ded between my son Jonathan my son Benjamin  
Radcliff my son James Radcliff my son John  
Radcliff my daughter Susannah Radcliff  
and my Grand daughter Sarah Radcliff  
4<sup>th</sup> and lastly I do hereby nominate and appoint  
my son Jonathan Radcliff Executor of this my  
Last will & testament In witness whereof I have hereunto  
set my hand & seal the date above written acknowledged

in the presence of us by the above named John Radcliff for his last will  
John Hammond  
John Gregory  
John Gregory

John Radcliff Seal

One of these marriages in Harrison County gives us an indication that the pioneer John may have had another daughter, Elizabeth. On 13 December 1803, Elizabeth Radcliff married David Carter (Caster) (Marriage Record 1, p. 68), and the Marriage Bond filed that day recites that Elizabeth was the daughter of John Radcliff. His signature, as well as that of the groom appears on the Bond (Marriage Bond Book 2, p. 10). From all the evidence gathered in this project, the conclusion has to be that the father of Elizabeth was the pioneer John. His son John would appear to have been too young to be the father of a bride in 1803; and John, the son of William, had migrated to Ohio by 1803, as we shall see. This conclusion is not at all foreclosed by the absence of any mention of Elizabeth in the Will of the pioneer John, for it was a very common practice in those days for fathers to leave their estates to their sons, thereby omitting any reference at all to one or more daughters. More simply, Elizabeth may have predeceased William.

A comparison of John Radcliff's signature on the marriage bond with the one appearing in 1794 on the attachment bond in the Kinshelo case, shows some similarities, but also enough differences so that this writer cannot definitely say that they were written by the same man. There certainly could be another John Radcliff floating around of whom we now have no knowledge, but the indication from all we know is that both signatures should be that of the pioneer John. Perhaps some reader of this has expertise in comparing handwritings and would be willing to contribute his or her opinion.

Commencing in 1799 and continuing through 1815, the tax lists of Harrison County included John, Benjamin, Jonathan and James, each being charged with one tithable - with one exception. Beginning in 1807 John was charged with two tithables, and this status remained through 1813. In 1815 and 1816 John was once again charged with only one tithable. 32

Based upon the Will of John who must have died shortly before 17 October 1814, the date of probate, and the fact that in the Will his son John was given the Elk Creek tract of 262 acres on which the father had resided, the following surmise seems reasonable:

Benjamin, Jonathan, and James, sons of the pioneer, had left the family farm by 1799 and had by then established their own households. The youngest son, John, continued living in the home of his father even after his reaching majority in or about 1807, and he remained there after his father's death which occurred before 1815.

The son John was probably the John Radcliffe who with his wife, Rachel, was buried in a Radcliffe cemetery at the mouth of

32. See Footnote 4.

Stouts Run on Elk Creek in Harrison County.<sup>33</sup> His tombstone gives the dates of his birth and death as 25 December 1788, and 6 December 1875, respectively. His wife's date of birth is apparently unreadable, but her date of death is given as 18 October 1872. The 1850 Census of Harrison County included a John, born about 1791, his wife, Rachel, born about 1789, and a daughter, Catherine, born about 1833. The marriage of a John Radcliff and Rachel Welch on 4 June 1829 occurred in Randolph County (Marriage Record 2, p. 3).

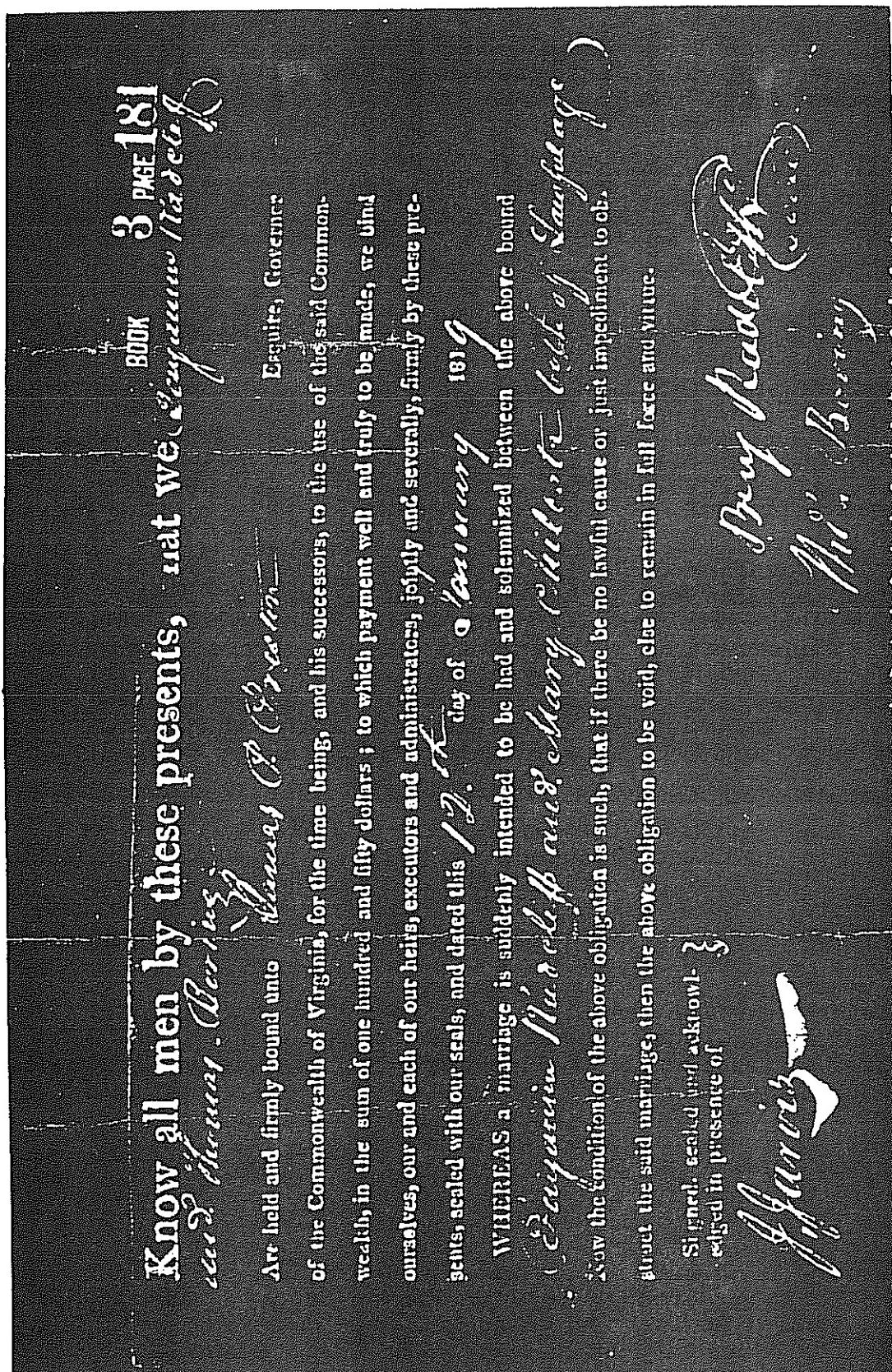
The Minute Books of the County Court of Harrison County contain frequent references to Benjamin, Jonathan, and James in the early 1800's, and Jonathan seems to have become a Justice of Peace in 1811 (Minute Book 1811-1812, p. 112). Very probably these are the sons of the pioneer John.

According to the marriage records of Harrison County, a James Radcliff married Eloner Caster, daughter of James Caster, on 23 December 1802 (Marriage Record 1, p. 57); and a Jonathan Radcliff married Sarah Caster, another daughter of James Caster, on 29 November 1804 (Marriage Record 1, p. 71). In the 1850 Census of Harrison County a Benjamin Radcliff, born about 1779, was listed with his wife Mary, born about 1780. This Benjamin would be about the right age to fit as a son of the pioneer John, and the marriage of a Benjamin to Mary Chilcote on 14 January 1819, appears in the Harrison County records (Marriage Record 2, p. 47). This date is a little late for the first marriage of a man born in 1799, but any previous marriage of Benjamin either was not recorded or has not yet been found.

The Harrison County records do reveal, however, that a Benjamin had some connection with a marriage which occurred nearly three years prior to the marriage of Benjamin and Mary Chilcote. On 4 March 1816, a marriage bond was executed by a Benjamin, as the intended groom, for his marriage to Elenor Boring, daughter of Jarret Boring. (Marriage Bond Book 3, p. 40). No record of this marriage appears in Harrison County, but very interestingly, a marriage of a James Radcliff to Elinor Boring on 12 March 1816 does appear in the records (Marriage Record 2, p. 47). No bond is found for the marriage of these two. Undoubtedly the circumstances attending the substitution of James for Benjamin at the wedding ceremony would make fascinating reading, if only we knew what they were.

According to a contributed letter dated 23 December 1977 from Judge Gerald E. Radcliffe of Chillicothe, Ohio, to Ralph H. Sayre of Buckhannon, West Virginia, Jonathan was born on 24 February 1773 in Virginia and moved in 1826 or 1827 to Ohio where he died on 1 November 1839 in Vinton County. Also, Jonathan had two sons: Louis, who died without marrying, and John (that writer's ancestor) who was born in Virginia and later homesteaded in Nebraska.

33. Unattributed notes submitted for this project.



Bond for Marriage of Benjamin Radcliff and Mary Chilcote  
Harrison County

BOND  
3 PAPER 40

**KNOW all MEN by these Presents, that We**  
*Benjamin Radcliff*  
*and Elenor Boring*  
**are held and firmly bound unto**  
*Henry Radcliff*  
*Esquire, Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, for the time being, and*

**his successors, to the use of the said Commonwealth, in the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars; to**  
**whom we will and truly to be made, we bind ourselves, our and each of our heirs, executors &**  
**administrators, jointly and severally, firmly by these presents, sealed with our seals and dated this**

**day of March - 1815**

**WHEREAS a marriage is suddenly intended to be had and solemnized between the abovebound**  
*Benjamin Radcliff and Elenor Boring*

**Now the condition of the above obligation is such, that if there be no lawful cause or just impediment, to obstruct the said marriage, then the above obligation to be void, else to remain in full force**  
**and virtue.**

*Henry Radcliff*  
*Henry Radcliff*  
*Benet Boring*

*Signed, Sealed and Acknowledged in the presence of*  
*John Johnson*

KNOW all men by these presents, that we  
the heire and firmly bound unto  
Virginia, in the just and full sum of one hundred and fifty  
dollars, to which payment well and truly to be made to the  
said Governor or his successors, we bind our selves, and each  
of our heirs, executors and administrators, jointly and sever-  
ally, fully by these presents. Sealed with our seals, and  
dated this 1st day of August 1783,

The condition of the above Obligation is such, that where-  
as there is a Marriage shortly intended to be solemnized be-  
tween David Caster & Elizabeth Radcliff,  
now if there be no lawful cause to object the said Marriage,  
then the above Obligation to be void, otherwise to remain in  
full force and virtue.

Signed sealed and delivered }  
in presence of }  
John Radcliff, Harrison County

Quite a bit is known about the family of James, primarily because of an article appearing on 6 August 1933 in the Clarksburg Exponent Telegram. According to this article and to his tombstone in the previously mentioned cemetery at the mouth of Stout's Run, James, the son of John, was born 20 April 1777 and died 12 August 1861 or 1862. Also according to the newspaper report, Eleanor Castor was the mother of James' sixteen children; and indeed their common tombstone records Eleanor as his wife, born 12 May 1781 and died 16 August 1859. Something for Radcliff researchers to unravel, however, is the above-mentioned marriage of a James to Elinor Boring on 12 March 1816. Without more information it cannot be determined whether James married two women with the same first name, or whether this latter mentioned marriage involved a different James.

The newspaper article lists the following as children of James and Eleanor: Nancy Ann, Mary, Margaret, Catherine, Sarah, John C., James Castor, Jonathon, Eleanor, Susannah, Drusilla, Benjamin, Malinda, Daniel, Rebecca, and Steven.

\* \* \* \* \*

so often quoted by a SLEETH descendant - my father, Frank Thayer, son of Hattie Sleeth, dau of David Sleeth, son of Alexander & Nancy (Smith) Sleeth

#### The Proper Attitude

"The proper way for a man to pray,"  
Says Dr. Samuel Keyes,  
"and the only proper attitude  
Is down upon your knees."

"I would say, when a man would pray,"  
Says Elder Thomas Dowd,  
"A man should stand erect  
With outstretched arms  
And head contritely bowed."

"Last year I fell in Hoskin's well;  
Head first," said Cyrus Brown.  
"With both my heels a-stickin' up  
And my head a-pointin' down.  
And I made a prayer right then and there,  
Best prayer I ever said;  
The prayingest prayer I ever prayed  
Was standing on my head."

\* \* \* \* \*



Ordering information on page 26.

# Generations

## ... A GAME OF FAMILY HISTORY

For two to six players aged nine to adult

As the old saying goes, you can choose your friends but not your relatives. Here's your chance to set up a new family tree! Search through the murky past for black sheep - and heroes. Grow an imaginary family tree as you travel through seven regions of the United States for facts.

Use logic and your sharp wits to discover three unknowns about your fictional ancestor - name, U.S. birthplace, and career or lifestyle. The winner separates fact from rumor and proves the identity of the ancestor. Play for information about one person or as many as five generations!

Career possibilities for your relative include artist, farmer, government worker, laborer, merchant or professional. Lifestyles cover criminal, hero, rat, poor, rich and your spitting image. Enhance the game by creating stories about these newly discovered family members and how they lived.

GENERATIONS starts discussion about real people and events. Let the game stimulate searches into your own family history!

Game comes with board showing seven birthplace regions of the United States; tokens and cards for ancestors, careers and lifestyles; Record Certification Ledger; family tree charts; and research worksheets.

Fun to play for a few minutes or all day long. Start your search now!

### Stonewall Jackson Lake--A Gift to the Nation

#### A Unique Water Recreation Resource for the East

The largest lake in West Virginia, and one of the largest in the eastern half of the United States, encompassing 3,470 acres, Stonewall Jackson Lake is a non-generating lake designed primarily for flood control. The minimum variability of the water table provides excellent recreational usage. The eighty-plus miles of shoreline has abundant accessible coast for boat launching as well as inaccessible areas to provide natural habitat for naturalists' observations. A national recreation area here would ensure water recreation heretofore not available to the general public in the northeastern sector of the United States. The lake itself will sustain such activities as boating, fishing, water skiing, and swimming, while the adjacent land will support hiking, biking, equestrian trails, wildlife observation, camping, picnicing, and hunting.

The West Virginia Association of the National Campers and Hikers Association (a thirty thousand family organization) is encouraging a national recreation area at Stonewall Jackson Lake because present West Virginia facilities are overcrowded and inadequate to handle large groups. The area is in heavy use by both regional and out-of-state hunters during the state regulated seasons. Harvesting of the abundant deer population is imperative and affords ample recreation opportunities for the marksman and the archer in the fall.

#### A Convenient and Accessible Location for the People

Situated on the West Fork of the Monongahela River, three miles upstream from Weston, Lewis County, West Virginia, about thirty miles from the geographic center of the state, Stonewall Jackson Lake is within three hundred miles of 50% of the population of the United

States. Interstate 79, running north-south overlooks the lake, and several exits are only minutes away from recreational sites. U.S. 33, running east-west through Weston, is a part of the proposed Appalachian Corridor H, providing a direct link to the Washington, D.C.-Northern Virginia major population centers. U.S. 50, a four lane, divided highway, crosses I 79 only seventeen miles north of the dam exit, providing an existing east-west route. As noted in the distance and mileage charts, Figures 1 & 2, page 4, the lake is within three hundred miles of most of the major cities in the East, making a wholesome, affordable family vacation accessible to countless lower and middle income Americans.

#### A Disappearing Treasure for the Nation

A part of the Appalachian Mountains, specifically the Allegheny Mountain Range, the area included for preservation in the approximately twenty thousand acre recreation facility contains rapidly disappearing eastern hardwood forest and unparalleled scenic beauty. A tranquil contrast to the eastern metropolises, the Stonewall Jackson National Recreation Area will restore to an urban dweller a sense of serenity and an appreciation for the beautiful nation in which he lives. Nestled in an agricultural sector, the area's unique geography affords both particularly northern and distinctly southern flora and fauna, offering visitors a glimpse of nature they perhaps may never have seen. Rich in natural habitat, the area teems with indigenous wildlife whose sanctuaries must be preserved to avoid extinction.

#### An All-Season Opportunity for the Tourist

A distinct four season location, coupled with a minimum of prolonged inclement weather, Stonewall Jackson Lake can provide recreation during all four seasons. Summer usage includes the lake sports: fishing, boating, water skiing, canoeing, and swimming,

as well as camping, picnicing, horseback riding and hiking. An amphitheater for outdoor drama would entertain throughout the summer. Because of the relatively mild climate, many of these activites could easily be enjoyed in the spring and fall months. Dogwood covering the hillsides in the spring and fantastic fall foliage make beautiful displays for visitors. Cross country skiing, ice skating and the inevitable snow sledding provide ample winter recreation.

All of these seasonal activities centered in an area rich in Civil War history and the Stonewall Jackson heritage provide endless opportunities for visitors to enjoy a diversity of activities. In addition, a resident population that has already determined to preserve, protect and share its distinct mountain culture will be an informed guide and a gracious host to multitudes of national and foreign visitors, demonstrating the best of America for generations to come.

\* \* \* \* \*

I love those old maps!

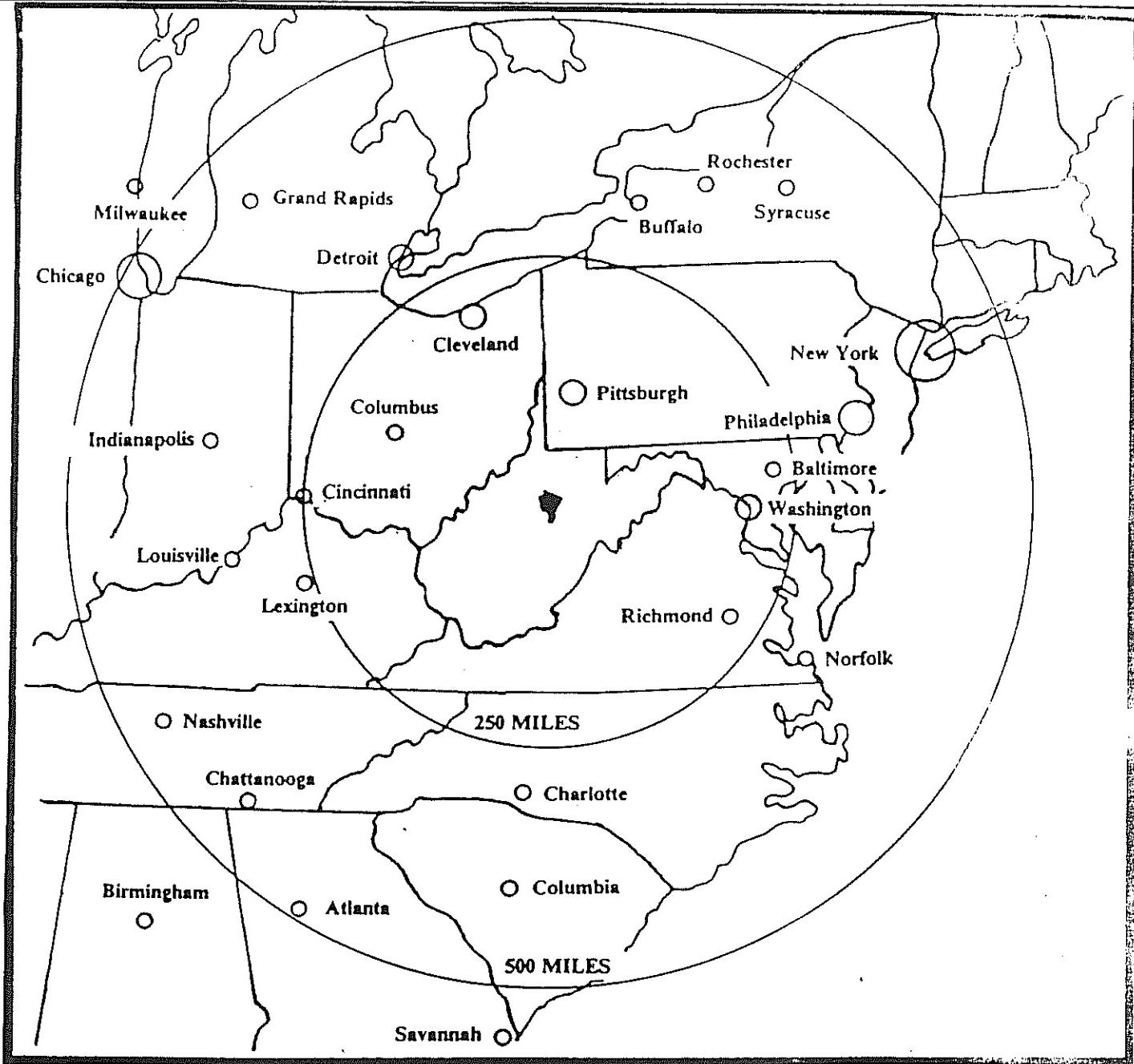
In LAND OWNERSHIP MAPS, A Checklist of Nineteenth Century United States In the Library of Congress, Washington: Library of Congress, 1967, you will find listed under West Virginia, Lewis County the following:

#1397 Lewis, (1820?), author or surveyor not known; available as Photocopy (pos.) in 4 parts, 18 x 24" each.

Does our HCPD own a copy? Or is one on file in the Lewis County Courthouse? For myself, I purchased the 1866 map of Johnson and Shelby Counties, Indiana. It cost plenty, but I do enjoy and use it. Our County Recorder was willing to purchase the 1871 set of Wood County, Ohio, township maps and we are in process of indexing all names of landowners. The 86-page INDEX is worth its cost of \$5.

For an estimate of cost, write to: Photoduplication Service  
Library of Congress  
Washington, DC 20540. They are not available in printed stock....These photodirect prints are limited in size to 17½" x 23½". Larger maps will be reduced or duplicated in two or more actual size or slightly overlapping sections." (In 1982, the price was \$8.50 per exposure plus \$4 packaging.)

\* \* \* \* \*




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#### Distances to major cities

Pittsburgh, PA	120 miles
Columbus, OH	210 miles
Washington, D.C.	250 miles
Richmond, VA	265 miles
Winston-Salem, NC	270 miles
Cincinnati, OH	280 miles
Lexington, KY	285 miles
Buffalo, NY	350 miles
Cleveland, OH	355 miles
Detroit, MI	460 miles

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## QUERIES

1. DEAN  
WALKER  
SCHOLTZ      James Johnson Dean; b. 20 Mar 1825, Weston, Lewis Co, (W)V; d. 16 Feb 1906, Glen Elder, Mitchell Co, KS; m. Oct 1850 Mary Ann Walker, b. 15 Jul 1831 in VA, d. 3 Nov 1914, Mitchell Co, KS, d/o Eli and ??? (Scholtz) Walker. At age 18, James Dean moved to Des Moines, IA, and then to Kansas 1876-1880. Would appreciate any info on any of these. Dale E. Dean, 920 S. Second St., Stockton, KS 67669. PH 913-425-6223.
2. RATCLIFF  
CARRETT      Need info on Newtoin Ratcliff b ca 1841. Children were Palmer, Lee, Ardelia Ellen (b. 1871, m. H. M. Garrett), Cleve, Wade and possibly others. Who were his wives? Who were his parents? Where did they live? Patsy Garrett Dawson, 1013 Willow, Celina, OH 45822
3. STOUT  
TOWNSEND      Ezekial T. Stout b ca 1823, lived in Gilmer Co., now WV; m. Elzara or Eliza Townsend. He was sheriff who had to hang slave who killed his master. Need dates, parents, siblings of both. Patsy Dawson, 1013 Willow, Celina, OH 45822.
4. SPICER  
JOHNSON      Stuart Spicer b. 1810, d 1885; m. Eliza Johnson, b 1815. Was his father Randolph? Would alike anything about their parents. Who were siblings? Need any info on Eliza. Patsy Dawson, 1013 Willow, Celina, OH 45822
5. FRANCIS  
GORDON  
ASHLEY  
COCKRELL  
CUMMINS      Henry P. Francis, b ca 1818 VA; m Margaret R. Gordon, ward of Nimrod Ashby, 1840. Was he s/o Patrick and Sally/Sarah Cockrell? Children were Joseph, John, George, Margaret Olive (b ca 1858, d 1891, m James A. Cummins). Patsy Dawson, 1013 Willow, Celina, OH 45822
6. BUSH  
SWAN  
WOLF  
WILSON  
EDMAN      What is relationship, if any.. between Jacob Bush, b ca 1756, d 1832, m. Margaret Swan, Augusta Co, VA, and George Bush, b 1/11/1774, who m. Mary Wolf 17 Jun 1799 in Harrison Co, (W)V. Who were their parents? Who was Eliza Ann Wilson (4 Apr 1835-2 Jan 1907) who m Jerry Edman 16 Aug 1853 in Lewis Co? Lillian M. Dodd, 355 Rockaway Rd., Charleston, WV 25302. PH 304-344-4514.
7. MILLER      Seek contact with any descendants of Jacob Miller. Lawrence A. Hughes, 6020 Leycross Dr., Dayton, OH 45424. PH 513-233-6554
8. WALKER  
BROWN      Interested in Walker, Brown and other surnames connected to Reuben Walker and wife Elizabeth who lived in Harrison Co., (W)V, and d. 1855 and 1857 respectively. Mrs. Roy Gooden, 750 NW Walnut Lane, Topeka, KS 66617

9. LOCKHART  
BUSH      Seek info on Aaron Lockhart. Dau. Elizabeth (d 1867) m in Harrison Co, 1805, Peter Bush (1783-????). Could his father be Bird Lockhart? Whom did he marry? Juanita Burke, 603 Grandview St., Parkersburg, WV 26101
10. SCHULER/SHULER  
BURNETT      Does anyone know of Elizabeth Shuler (Schuler) whose father was Adam Shuler and mother was Annie Burnett? Dorothea A. Sargent, PO Box 6489, Kokomo, IN 46904
11. TALBOT  
BOYD  
ELLISON      Ann Talbot, mother of Charity, Cottrill, and Richard Talbot came to Philippi, (W)V in 1780. The Genealogy of Thomas Hall (1967) by Septemus Hall states that Charity and her mother Ann returned to Prince George's County, MD, where Charity married a William Boyd. "A Family History" (1950) by Loren C. Talbot states that Charity married a man named Ellison and they lived on a farm one mile north of Philippi. Zachariah Ellison probably was the father-in-law of Charity (Talbot) Ellison. I will give \$25.00 for proof of the correct answer to who was the husband of Charity Talbot. Marshall Shore, Suite 511, APP, 255 North El Cielo Road, Palm Springs, CA 92262.
12. TALBOT      Ann Talbot, mother of Charity, Cotterill, and Richard came to Philippi in 1780. Did she remain in West Virginia? Where did she spend her last years? Clarksburg? Marshall Shore, Suite 511, APP, 255 N. El Cielo Rd., Palm Springs, CA 92262.
13. DENTON  
WALLACE      Would like to correspond with the desc. of Justice W. and Roscouna (Wallace) Denton who were b. 1784 and 1793. Dorothea Woods Sargent, PO Box 6489, Kokomo, IN 46904
14. GARNER  
TATE/TEAT  
TAYLOR  
BURR  
FITZ  
RANDOLPH  
DAVIS  
MAXON      Need info on following: Simon Henry Garner, b 28 Feb 1846 in (W)VA, d 30 May 1930, Harrison Co, WV. William Tate (Teat) b. 1781, VA, d. 17 Jul 1843, Harrison Co. Jesse M. (Jep) Taylor, b 1814 Philadelphia, PA, d 21 Jan 1898, Calhoun Co, WV., m. Jane Burr 1838, Lewis Co, WV. I have info Fitz-Randolph, Davis, Maxon and related families. Will exchange. Edna W. Taylor, 2222 Dividing Ridge Cem. Rd., Soddy-Daisy, TN 37379
15. MARKS  
MOWERY  
GREENLEAF  
VAN HORN  
BLOUGH  
CORRA      Searching for par. of John Harse Marks, b 5/3/1885, Cedarville, WV; m. Dora Maud Mowery or Greenleaf. Obit lists several half-brothers and sisters. Which was her name? Who were her parents? Her children included Macil Ireeta Van Horn Blough, Ershal John, Ronald L., Mable V. Corra and George Edson. Dora Maud d. 3/28/1965. Also searching for

par. of Elizabeth Read @ 1791 m. John Van Horn. Were they John and Ester Read? Jerrie Van Horn, PO Box 2814, Smyrna, GA 30081.

16. HARDMAN  
HUFF  
HACKER  
STOUT  
WILLIAM  
ISRAEL  
DIVERS  
POE  
TURNER  
KENNEDY  
BOYCE  
JONES  
ROBEY  
FARROWS

I need parents of Catherine Hardman, b 1798?, d 1870 in Doddridge Co, WV, m 1816 Harrison Co, (W)V, Henry Huff. I have Hardman Family history, but nothing on Catherine. Was she d/o Henry Hardman and Elizabeth Hacker? Her issue: Benjamin Turner m. Matilda Stout; Celia m. J.R. William; Grandville m. (1) Harriett ? and (2) Columbia J. Israel; Margaret J. m. Andrew J. Divers; Ai J. m. Julia Poe; Thomas Turner m. Sarah J. Kennedy; Mary Margaret m. Felix Boyce; Andrew J. m. Martha J. Jones; Catherine m. George Robey; Henry m. Elizabeth Farrows, Wood Co, WV. Martha J. Martin, Rt. 1, Box 438, Farmington, WV 26571.

**Editor's Note:** It's doubtful that Catherine was d/o Henry and Elizabeth (Hacker) Hardman for several reasons. (1) If Catherine was born in 1798, Elizabeth would have been only fourteen years of age when Catherine was born, even a bit young for those days. (2) Henry and Elizabeth were not married until 1808. Elizabeth died in Ohio in ca 1811 and had two or possibly three children - Charlotte, b 1809, m. John Whetzel, John D., b 1811, m. Mary Life and perhaps Margaret, b 1813, w/o David Whetzel. Researchers are still trying to determine whether the last child was Elizabeth's or that of Henry Hardman's second wife, Juliana Rinehart.

17. SLEETH  
HENRY

Trying to find parents of Mary Jane SLEETH, born February 1838 in Ohio. Her father may be a James M. SLEETH born about 1816 who was living in Ford County, Illinois on the 1870 census. Mary Jane married John Dixon HENRY in cal865, probably in Ford Co., Ill. Children include: Jennifer L., born 1867; James, born 1870; Elizabeth Ann, born 1871; Sarah, b 1872 and died young; John E., born 1873. Family tradition says they lived in Indiana before coming to Illinois and both John HENRY and wife Mary Jane SLEETH were in Ohio before Indiana and Illinois. (from correspondence to Lolita)  
...Gina Wright, Route 1, Box 199, Enville, TN 38332.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Regarding census indexes:** Yes. use the printed indexes and then pursue with the microfilmed originals.

**An example:** On the published index to the 1820 Census for Indiana, both Nancy and Jane SLEETH are listed as residing in Delaware County. They were actually living on the homesteads in Shelby County. Since Shelby County did not become a county until 1822, the census was taken as Delaware County. It was the heading - Flat Rock Parish - that guided me to find these Hacker's Creek descendants.

An excellent resource now available is: Map Guide to the U. S. Federal Censuses, 1790-1920, (#5785) @ \$49.95 per copy.

**Postage & handling:** One book \$2. Order from: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc. 1001 N. Calvert St., Baltimore, MD 212-2-3897.

(Sorry. I have no source for this "view looking west" from Hacker's Creek.)

## Pioneers' Valley....

